

# Chapel End, Sawtry, Cambridgeshire

An Archaeological Evaluation Assessment



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## OASIS FORM

## Summary

*An archaeological evaluation was undertaken to address a pre-planning determination request. The Proposed Development Area (PDA) centred on TL 1737 8373 is located immediately west of the A1 (M) which occupies the route of Roman Ermine Street, and south of the scheduled remains of a shrunken medieval village (SAM 172).*

*A total of 15 trenches (449m) were machine excavated across the PDA. The trenches revealed evidence of Early Iron Age activity and earlier medieval features as well as later 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century refuse pits and a series of undated agricultural/drainage features. Archaeology was present in all but one trench.*

*A single Early Iron Age pit containing pottery and large deposits of burnt clay was excavated at the southern area of the PDA. Similar fills associated with a NE-SW aligned ditch and several probable pit features exposed at the northwest corner of the PDA suggest this prehistoric activity may continue across the area, albeit sporadically.*

*Earlier medieval features appear to represent the remains of peripheral settlement activity; i.e. ditched enclosures, pits and probable well features, with some later agricultural activity indicated by furrow remnants. Much of this activity was located on the higher clay ground and had subsequently been heavily truncated, however a number of features on the sloping ground were found to be relatively well-preserved. Most of the pottery dates from the 12<sup>th</sup> century and includes a high quantity of St Neots Ware. Some limited 13<sup>th</sup> century material was also found, and very occasionally pottery dating to the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries, although much of this may have been redeposited in the area by agricultural activities.*

*The circular earthworks in the north-westernmost field were found to be modern, superficial features, likely associated with equestrian training whilst the large ditch visible in the northeast field proved to be series of re-cutting drainage features dating to the post-medieval period (c.17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century).*

## **Introduction**

An archaeological trench-based evaluation was undertaken between the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April 2013 to assess the character and extent of any archaeological activity on land off Chapel End, Sawtry (NGR TL 1727 8373). A geophysical survey (Walford 2013) was conducted on the 10<sup>th</sup> April 2013 prior to the trial-trench evaluation. These projects were commissioned by CgMs Consulting in response to a pre-determination planning request on behalf of the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CHET). The evaluation followed a specification set out by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) (Gibson 2013).

### *Geography and Topography*

The site comprises an elongated section of land approximately 2.2ha in total and is located on the northeast side of Sawtry accessed via Chapel End (Figure 1). The site is bordered by the A1 (M) to the east and residential dwellings to the north, west and south. The PDA itself consists of seven small paddocks, divided into two main areas separated by a narrow track or path leading off Chapel End. The ground level of the southern area undulates considerably, whilst the northern portion is generally flatter with noticeable superficial earthworks.

The site occupies a height of 10-12m AOD, whilst east of the area, the land slopes gradually down into Sawtry Fen. The solid geology is recorded as Oxford Clay, although superficial silt deposits were also noted in areas of the site.

### *Archaeological Background*

The archaeological background of the area has been detailed in the CgMs report (see Flitcroft, *forthcoming*) and is only summarised here.

Southeast of the PDA, an excavation at Black Horse Farm revealed the well-preserved remains of Early-Middle Iron Age settlement, spanning the 5<sup>th</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries BC (MCB16484, ECB2785). Close to the PDA, Late Iron Age features and early Roman pottery kilns (HER 11666) have also been recorded immediately west of the A1 (Roman Ermine Street).

Evidence for Roman settlement has been found close to the PDA, to both the east and west sides of Ermine Street (HER 01834, 11665, 01329a). Additional Roman and medieval ditches (HER15824) were found adjacent to St Andrew's graveyard to the north, whilst to the southwest, Iron Age, Roman and Saxon remains have been excavated on Gidding Road (MCB18238, ECB3476).

North of the PDA, a scheduled area (SAM 172) demarks the extent of Sawtry moat and former (shrunk) medieval village, comprising earthworks of house platforms, banks and ridge and furrow. Two churches existed within the area; All Saints and St Andrew's, although both were demolished in 1880 (HER 01333). The present All Saints Church has utilised some of the original 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> century material in its construction. Further medieval remains and moated sites are known in the vicinity

(HER 01311, 01329a). Also north of the site, an additional earthwork feature comprising a circular hollow and bank surrounded by a square ditch and bank enclosure, has been suggested to be a Cromwellian gun point (HER 01329).

### *Methodology*

Fifteen trenches were excavated using a 360° tracked machine with a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket and supervised by an experienced archaeologist. The trenches were machine excavated to a level where archaeological features were visible. A trench sheet was completed for every trench to record deposit depths and section profiles, as well as any geological variances. All but one trench revealed archaeological remains. Hand excavated features were recorded using the CAU modified MoLAS recording system and digital photographs of features and trenches were taken. Where present, all datable material finds were collected in order to spot-date unexcavated features. Subsequently, all unexcavated features were ascribed an upper fill context number, whilst the excavated features were given both fill and cut numbers. The trenches were fixed to the Ordnance Survey (OS) grid and located using a Global Positioning System. The site was identified as CES 13.

### **Results**

The fifteen trenches amounted to a total of 449m (Figure 2). The thickness of the topsoil was relatively consistent throughout the PDA, whilst subsoil deposits varied depending on the topography of the natural substrate. On average, the topsoil deposit was approximately 0.19m deep and the subsoil 0.3m deep. A second, earlier subsoil deposit was recorded in Trench 13, measuring approximately 0.13m in depth and immediately overlying the natural substrate. The solid geology of the general area has been mapped as Oxford Clay however localised areas of a mid-brownish orange sandy clay-silt natural substrate were recorded in Trenches 3, 4, 11, 12 and 13. All other trenches revealed a natural substrate of Oxford Clay.

The topsoil comprised a layer of turf above a very dark grey clayish silt. The soil was moderately firm in consistency with rare small stones and a distinct lack of material finds or modern rubbish. Where Oxford Clay was present, the underlying subsoil was a mid-darkish grey clay silt and firm in consistency. The subsoil also yielded few material finds and was heavily bioturbated where trenches were in close proximity to hedge lines. Where the natural parent material comprised a mid-orange clay silt (Trenches 3, 4, 11, 12, 13), the overlying subsoil was a mid grey-brown clayish silt, with rare small stones.

### *Trench 1*

At the southernmost area of the PDA, and situated on a higher area of clay, Trench 1 revealed a series of east-west aligned linear features (**F.1, F.2, F.3, F.5, F.6, F.7, F.8, F.9**), a small possible pit feature (**F.4**), and a shallow terminus (**F.10**). The geophysical results indicated the presence of a number of east-west linear features, many of which are likely to be the remains of medieval furrows. However, the ditches

in Trench 1 are not regularly spaced, as would be expected of furrows. It is likely that whilst a few of the ditches are remains of the agricultural features, (furrows and perhaps lazy beds), the others are probably associated with drainage and are contemporary or later in date. A single sherd of 15<sup>th</sup> century pottery was recovered from F.7 and is insufficient to date these features.

#### *Trench 2*

A single pit (**F.11**, Figure 3) was recorded in Trench 2, located at the eastern end of the trench and comprising a very dark, charcoal-rich fill. Quantities of Early Iron Age (EIA) pottery, burnt stones and burnt clay fragments were recovered from the upper fill (15) along with a single fragment of cow bone. A small assemblage of re-fitting flint pieces struck from a single flint cobble was also recovered and is in keeping with technologies employed throughout the Middle Bronze Age to Iron Age (see Billington, below). The burnt daub is likely from wall or oven structures and is not thought to represent the remains of fired clay artefacts (see Timberlake, below). The environmental results indicate there is some potential for preservation of plant remains, although only small fragments of charred wheat or barley were recovered from the sample. The presence of daub from oven features or walls suggests the presence of structural activity in the vicinity, relating either to settlement, or perhaps even to small-scale industrial activity such as pottery kilns.

#### *Trench 3*

Trench 3 trench was located on the downward slope of the southern area of the PDA and subsequently, displayed geological variation from its southern to its northern end. The trench yielded an array of features including possible shallow gully terminuses at the southern end (**F.12** and **F.110**), a further east-west aligned ditch (**F.13**) and a series of pit features, many of which were intercutting (**F.16**, **F.17**, **F.18**, **F.19**, **F.20**, **F.21**).

The pit features were clustered at the northern end, where a lighter natural geology of mid brownish-orange sandy clayish silt was present. A small trial hole was excavated into the intercutting features F.19, F.20 and F.21 (Figure 4). Pit F.19 yielded a number of 13<sup>th</sup> century pottery sherds, whilst a relatively large quantity of 12<sup>th</sup> century pottery was recovered from F.20. These features were notably rich in charcoal, although there was no animal bone present. The environmental sample yielded remains of charred wheat and pulses, of the types often associated with Roman and Saxo-Norman settlement contexts (see de Vareilles, below).

#### *Trench 4*

The geology of Trench 4 was comparable to that at the northern end of Trench 3; a superficial silt overlying the Oxford Clay. At the western end, a narrow ditch (**F.22**, Figure 4), aligned NNW-SSE was excavated and yielded a very small, abraded fragment of Samian pottery. A possible ditch terminus (**F.23**) was also excavated and contained an abraded fragment of 13<sup>th</sup> century pottery. Unlike the charcoal-rich fills of the features in Trench 3, F.22 and F.23 were relatively sterile and comprised a moderately firm mid-pale brownish orange sandy clayish-silt. It is possible that the

pottery recovered from both features is residual, although it is likely that the features themselves may relate to the earlier medieval activity noted in Trench 3.

Toward the eastern end of the trench, a machine slot was excavated into a large, but relatively shallow northwest-southeast aligned ditch (**F.24**). No pottery was recovered from this feature, although fragments of a dog skeleton were found. Recent disturbance, including a thin lens of re-deposited ballast, was noted in the overlying subsoil and was seemingly confined to the area immediately above this feature. Consequently, it is likely that this feature relates to relatively recent activity, perhaps associated with the major sewage system located to the immediate north of this trench.

### *Trench 5*

Trench 5 was located at the western slope of the PDA, and had deeper subsoil deposits. To the south end of Trench 5, two large modern (18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century) pits were exposed (**F.25** and **F.35**). The features had been cut from high up within the subsoil sequence, and later capped by the existing topsoil. A mixture of modern bricks, tile and ceramic drain pipe fragments as well as what appeared to be decaying matter such as paper or card was noted in the pits. The location of these features corresponds with an anomalous area highlighted by the geophysical survey.

Trench 5 also revealed a number of archaeological features. Two northeast-southwest aligned ditches (**F.26** and **F.30**, the former was excavated) contained fragments of 12<sup>th</sup> century pottery. Contemporary pottery was also collected from pits **F.29**, **F.31**, **F.32** and **F.33** (the relationship between features F.31 and F.32 was not investigated, and these features may be part of the same pit). Two east-west aligned linear features were also recorded toward the centre of the trench and a further pit or ditch at the very northern end was only partially exposed. A western extension of this trench was machine excavated at the request of the Historic Environment Team representative, within which a further three postholes (**F.102**, **F.103** and **F.104**) were revealed, alongside two narrow northwest-southeast aligned gullies (**F.101** and **F.106**) and two larger north-south aligned ditches or possible pit features (**F.105** and **F.107**). Pottery was seen protruding from the upper fill of three of these features (F.101, F.105 and F.107), but was left *in situ*. The pottery was similar in fabric and form to material retrieved from elsewhere in Trench 5. As well as pottery, well-preserved specimens of animal bone were recovered from many of the features.

Whilst the variable alignment of features in Trench 5 attests to several phases of activity, the pottery suggests that this activity was confined to the 12<sup>th</sup> and perhaps the early 13<sup>th</sup> century.

### *Trench 6*

A series of north-south linear features (**F.48**, **F.51** and **F.53**) were visible in Trench 6 as well as two possible postholes (**F.47** and **F.49**) and a probable pit feature (**F.50**). Given the identification of a north-south aligned furrow remnant in the neighbouring Trench 8 (see F.55), it is likely that the irregular edges and patchy nature of F.48, F.49, F.51 and F.53 represent the remains of a truncated furrow. However the possible pit F.50 and an east-west aligned ditch F.52 may relate to earlier activity,



contemporary with the archaeological features in the surrounding trenches. A single 12<sup>th</sup> century sherd from F.48 and a sherd of 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> pottery from F.53 are likely to be residually incorporated into the furrow fill and do not supply adequate dating information. In general, the features can be likened to the archaeology of Trenches 5, 7 and 8 by the similarity in fill type and the presence of well-preserved animal bone fragments.

### *Trench 7*

Trench 7 was located on the downward slope at the western edge of the site?. The western end displayed significant bioturbation owing to the proximity of the field boundary hedge and tree line. Furthermore, the entire western half of the trench had also been heavily disturbed by an area of modern (18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century) pitting (**F.36**, **F.37**, **F.38**, **F.39**, **F.40**, and **F.41**). The intercutting pits were cut from within the subsoil layer, sealed by the topsoil. Upon excavation of three of these pits (F.38, F.39 and F.41, see Figure 5), it was revealed that these features only just cut into the natural substrate, with an average depth of 0.13m. A single residual fragment of 13<sup>th</sup> century pottery was also found in F.41.

Toward the eastern end of Trench 7, a possible northwest-southeast oriented gully (**F.42**), posthole (**F.44**) a northeast-southwest aligned ditch (**F.45**), a possible pit or further ditch (**F.46**) and a drainage ditch of unknown date (**F.111**) were also recorded. An additional feature (**F.43**), thought to have been two intercutting ditches, was partially excavated. A capping layer of re-deposited natural material had obscured the feature, which in fact appeared to be a large pit or possible well feature. Whilst the majority of sherds were of 13<sup>th</sup> century date, a residual Roman pottery sherd and an intrusive 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> fragment were also recovered. The presence of a medieval well at the western edge of the PDA may indicate the western limit of the 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century activity.

### *Trench 8*

The edge of a modern pit feature, similar to those seen in Trench 5, was exposed at the western end of Trench 8 (**F.54**) and was left unexcavated. As with the modern pits in Trench 5, F.54 appeared to relate to an anomalous area mapped in the geophysical survey and likely dates to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The modern pit cut a shallow north-south aligned ditch or furrow **F.108**, which was masked in plan by a layer of re-deposited natural. In turn, this ditch cut a shallow, irregular-based ditch (**F.55**) which was also oriented north-south (see Figure 5). Several sherds of St Neots Ware (12<sup>th</sup> century) were recovered from F.55, although a few fragments may have belonged to 11<sup>th</sup> century vessels. It is possible that F.55 represents the remains of a furrow, but unfortunately the relatively low quantity of pottery and lack of certainty over the nature of furrows on this site means it is not clear if the material is contemporary or residual.

Five other north-south ditches and a gully terminal were noted across the trench (**F.56**, **F.57**, **F.58**, **F.59** and **F.60**), and of these features, only F.60 was investigated. Similarly to Trench 1, the irregularity in width and spacing of these north-south linear features does not appear to be in keeping with typical ridge and furrow patterns.

Feature F.57 however does appear to line up with the probable furrow extending along the entire length of Trench 6 (see features F.47/49/51/53).

An additional ditch was excavated toward the central area of the trench (**F.61**, Figure 5). Aligned northwest-southeast, this feature was deeper than many of the other linear features in the area. 12<sup>th</sup> century pottery and animal bone were recovered and suggest the feature is contemporary with the general activity in this area.

At the eastern end of the trench, two possible pit features were partially exposed at the northern trench edge (**F.62** and **F.63**) and were similar in form to features exposed in Trench 10 (see below). Two ditches (**F.64** and **F.65**) aligned northeast-southwest were also recorded east of this, cut by a modern trial pit (probably a geotechnical pit).

### *Trench 9*

The geophysical plot revealed a number of east-west aligned features within the vicinity of Trench 9. It is plausible that **F.72**, **F.74**, **F.75**, **F.76** and **F.77** may correlate to some of these anomalies and are the remains of either agricultural or drainage activity. F.72 was distinguished by a central fill with frequent moderately large cobbles, indicative of a drainage feature. Three possible pit features were also noted (**F.70**, **F.73** and **F.80**) but not excavated. A northwest-southeast oriented ditch or large pit feature located toward the centre of the trench was excavated, but yielded only animal bone fragments and a single residual struck flint. Features F.75, F.76 and F.77 were excavated and found to be relatively shallow. Three sherds of 13<sup>th</sup> century pottery were collected from F.75, F.76 and F.80.

A curving line of four postholes (**F.66**, **F.67**, **F.68** and **F.69**) were noted at the southern end of the trench, and cut pit F.70. No dating evidence was seen on the surface, although the fill of these features was distinctly darker than that of any other features located on the clay, and may have derived from the existing topsoil.

### *Trench 10*

The features in Trench 10 were considerably harder to categorise. Whilst **F.82** was distinguishable as a very shallow north-south aligned gully, the remaining features were either very shallow, amorphous or only partially exposed within the trench. The irregular edge and gradually stepped base of **F.81** (Figure 6) at the western end of the trench suggests it may have been a natural tree-throw; however the fill sequence displayed a thin burnt lens, comprising scorched earth and large quantities of charcoal. Despite the very shallow nature of **F.83** and **F.85**, these features were almost perfectly circular in plan, measuring 1m in diameter. The remaining features were only partially exposed at the northern edge of the trench and where investigated were of variable depth, although always relatively shallow. **F.87** and **F.88** have therefore been attributed to natural formations, such as tree-throw hollows, whilst **F.84** and the unexcavated **F.86** are thought to represent pits (by their depth or regular form). A single sherd of pottery from F.85 was not diagnostic but comparable to the 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> material by fabric type (see Hall, below).

### *Trench 11*

The underlying geology of Trench 11 was akin to that of Trench 4 and comprised a mid brownish-orange clay silt. A single northeast-southwest oriented ditch was excavated at the west end of the trench (**F.89**, Figure 6) and contained a charcoal-rich fill which produced small lumps of burnt clay/daub. A single tiny sherd of grey ware of either Roman or medieval date was recovered but does not provide sufficient dating evidence. The assemblage of burnt daub material appears to be similar to that contained in F.11 in Trench 2 at the southern end of the PDA and could be indicative of a broadly contemporary date.

A series of large pit features (**F.90**, **F.91**, **F.92** and **F.93**) were also identified in this trench, and contained fills analogous to that of F.89 (i.e. charcoal-rich with large quantities of burnt clay/daub). It therefore seems plausible that these pits are contemporary with F.89, and together represent a localised area of Iron Age activity.

Trench 11 was located as the north-westernmost corner of the PDA across the western side of one of the circular earthworks. Upon opening this trench, the circular earthwork was found to be extremely superficial, existing only in the topsoil layer (Figure 7). Discussion with the local residents and in the light of the recent land use, it has been suggested that both circular features (the second was explored in Trench 12) are in fact simply the remains of horse exercise rings.

### *Trench 12*

Similarly to Trench 11, Trench 12 was located on the localised area of natural silt geology. The western end of this trench was located on the second of the circular earthwork features, which was less substantial than the first one recorded in Trench 11, and again, undoubtedly the remains of an equine exercise ring.

Two features were exposed in the trench; the first was a large, amorphous feature (**F.94**) containing a sticky fill with a slight greenish tinge indicative of organic content. A small test pit (TP 1) was excavated at the relative centre of this feature, however, at only 0.4m down, the water table was encountered and the feature could not be further investigated. Well-preserved animal bone fragments were retrieved from this feature. Its size, general shape and slightly organic content suggest it may have been a pond feature and relate to either medieval or later post-medieval activity.

To the east of this was a wide ditch, oriented roughly north-south (**F.95**). The ditch was partially masked by an overlying deposit of colluvial material and a lens of organic silt, possibly the remnants of flooding episodes of the adjacent pond feature. Fragments of bone were recovered, but no dating material.

### *Trench 13*

Also located within the area of silt geology, a single ditch of possible prehistoric date (**F.97**) and a field drain (**F.96**) were encountered in Trench 13. The ditch was aligned roughly north-south, similar to F.95 in Trench 12, possibly suggestive of some contemporaneous activity, and yielded a single end scraper of late Neolithic/Early

Bronze Age date. The later drainage ditch with associated pipe was on a distinct northwest-southeast alignment, unlike any of the linear features in this area of the site.

A modern pit was also identified in the trench, cutting from within the uppermost limits of the subsoil and was very similar in form to the modern pit at the east end of Trench 8. It is therefore also likely to be a geotechnical pit.

Toward the centre and north-eastern end of Trench 13, the natural substrate was overlain by a pale brownish-orange clayish silt deposit, approximately 0.13m in depth. It is possible that this earlier 'subsoil' layer derived from Roman or Medieval cultivation, or perhaps represents an ancient former land surface. The material was seemingly sterile, and raises the possibility that it may simply have derived from colluvial accumulation.

At the eastern end of the trench, a modern path comprising modern brick rubble and hardcore was noted in the topsoil layer. This feature can be seen in the geophysical survey crossing the paddock in a northwest-southeast direction. The path was not ascribed a feature number owing to its extremely modern date.

#### *Trench 14*

The geology of Trench 14 and the neighbouring Trench 15 was Oxford clay. Trench 14 was located at the north-eastern edge of the PDA, adjacent to a substantial field boundary hedge line. Subsequently, the natural substrate was heavily bioturbated, disturbed by extensive networks of roots. A single pit (**F.100**) containing a recent cow skeleton was investigated but not fully excavated due to the potential health hazard.

The western extent of the trench was positioned specifically to examine a significant ditched earthwork that meandered in a roughly north-south alignment across this paddock. Upon excavation, this ditch was seen to comprise at least three re-cutting linear features (**F.98**, **F.99** and **F.109**, Figure 7). Whilst F.98 was a broad and relatively shallow ditch, F.99 was a deeper, narrow drainage gully containing a large quantity of cobble stones as well as brick and tile fragments. F.109 was not fully exposed, but appeared to be a very broad and moderately shallow ditch also with a high frequency of cobbles and tile fragments. Large animal bone fragments were also encountered, especially in F.99 and F.109. The tile and brick fragments were moderately abraded and appeared to span the later medieval-early post medieval period (14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century, Cessford, 2013 *pers.comm.*) although a single abraded sherd of 12<sup>th</sup> century pottery was also found in F.108.

Given the almost complete lack of any material culture found within the topsoil and/or subsoil layers across the entire site, it would appear that the assemblage of material (bone, stone, brick and tile) in features F.98, F.99 and F.109 had been collected and intentionally deposited to assist with drainage. The dateable material was mixed, (a few fragments may even belong to abraded Roman tiles), but implies a date no earlier than the 17<sup>th</sup> century for the existing initial ditch construction.

A small trench extension was machine excavated at the western end, to ensure that there were no earlier archaeological remains in the area or any additional features associated with the ditched earthwork. No further features or material was found.

## *Trench 15*

No features were revealed in Trench 15.

## **Discussion**

The Early Iron Age pit F.11, at the southern extremity of the evaluated area, although seemingly an isolated feature, contained a relatively large assemblage of material culture. The presence of daub from ovens or wall features is indicative of structural waste and may have derived from domestic or industrial structures (i.e. pottery kilns). The re-fitting flints imply that this waste material may not have been transported far from its original manufacturing site. Potentially comparative dumps of charcoal-rich backfills high in burnt clay/daub fragments associated with the pits and ditch in Trench 11 suggest that this domestic activity could exist within the northeast corner of the PDA, although these latter features cannot be accurately dated at this time.

In spite of the potential for Roman remains within the PDA, no features exposed in the evaluation could be dated to this period. A few abraded pottery fragments and a fragment of lava quern of Roman or Saxon date (see Timberlake, below) highlight an element of residuality but there does not appear to be a more substantial Roman component to the activity.

A small cluster of earlier medieval features at the northern end of Trench 3 represent an apparent localised area of pits with possible ditch features being masked or confused by the intercutting pits. The quantities of pottery recovered from these features coupled with the environmental remains from F.20 are indicative of domestic refuse and point toward the existence of contemporary settlement in the immediate vicinity.

The earlier medieval remains found during the evaluation were largely restricted to the clay slopes of the southern portion of the PDA and are indicative of settlement-edge activity; small enclosures, paddocks, limited numbers of pits, agricultural and probable well features. Although the pottery dates suggest the activity was largely confined to the 12<sup>th</sup> and perhaps the earlier 13<sup>th</sup> centuries, the shifting alignment of many of the features is seemingly representative of several phases of activity. Pits and potential well features appear to be limited to the northern and north-western extent of the medieval activity zone (Trenches 7 and 10) whilst ditches representative of enclosures, paddocks and agricultural activity occupy the bulk of the exposed areas.

The geophysical survey indicated the potential presence of east-west furrow remnants at the southern and northern extremities of the south portion of the PDA (Trenches 1, 2, 9 and 10). Similarly, the evidence suggests north-south aligned furrow remains exist in the region of Trenches 6 and 8. Whilst several features were identified in these trenches as potential furrow remnants according to their profile, alignment and general character, there are a substantial number of both east-west and north-south aligned features within these trenches that are too irregularly spaced to conform to typical medieval furrow spacing. Where visible earthworks were present, in the paddocks, no corresponding negative feature was identified at the natural substrate level. It seems likely therefore, that those furrow remnants identified in the

geophysical survey are largely contained within the subsoil and thus represent a later phase of agricultural activity, post-dating the aforementioned peripheral settlement features. Many of the east-west and north-south linear features may therefore relate to the earlier medieval activity.

The relative depths of investigated features imply that any remains found on the higher clay level are likely to have been significantly truncated, probably by the later ridge and furrow agriculture. With the exception of where the large modern refuse pits have disturbed the earlier archaeology, the features located on the lower clay level and downward slopes appear to have seen less truncation. Surface finds of pottery were noticeably more abundant in these trenches and in particular in Trench 5. A second area of relatively well-preserved features was recorded at the north end of Trench 3, where pit F.20 yielded the highest quantity of 12<sup>th</sup> century pottery of any excavated feature and well-preserved plant remains.

Although only a few environmental samples were processed, the results indicate the potential for rich carbonised plant assemblages in both prehistoric and earlier medieval contexts. This is largely owing to clay content of the fills. Similarly, the hand-collected bone sample from across the site was comparatively small, but the assemblage appears to have some interesting characteristics. Clearly derived from domestic activity, there was a distinct lack of pig represented in the assemblage, and a relatively high percentage of horse bones, some of which displayed signs of butchery (see Rajkovača, below). These results should be read with some caution as the assessable sample was relatively small.

### **Statement of Potential**

The results of the evaluation at Chapel End, Sawtry highlight two main periods of activity. The first is Early Iron Age activity, represented by F.11 in the south and potentially also by a series of pits and ditches in the north-western corner (Trenches 11, 12 and 13). The proximity of the PDA to the well-preserved settlement remains of Early-Middle Iron Age date at Black Horse Farm, suggests contemporary activity may exist across a relatively large area. It is perhaps surprising that no evidence for Roman activity was found during the evaluation, given the proximity of major sites to the east and southeast of the PDA.

The second, more complex phase of activity dates to the earlier medieval period, between the 12<sup>th</sup> and potentially 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. Ditches, pits and probable well features were dated to this period. The variation in alignment displayed by these features implies several phases of activity spanning this two hundred year period. Since very little material post-dating this period was recovered, it is likely that the area was given over to agriculture from the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The presence of 12<sup>th</sup> century features suggest the edges of the medieval village of Sawtry (the parish of All Saints) may have extended further south than previously thought.

### **Future Work**

During the on-site meeting between the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team, CgMs consultant and the CAU, the potential areas for further investigation were

outlined according to the density of the archaeological features. Three ‘zones’ were suggested as requiring further mitigation; Trenches 2, 3 and 4 to the south of the PDA, Trenches 5 – 10 in the central region of the PDA and Trenches 11, 12 and 13 in the northwest corner. The northeast portion (Trenches 14 and 15) and the southern extremity of the PDA (Trench 1) were not included in the scheme of works. These areas were defined so as to incorporate the areas of significant archaeology, whilst avoiding modern disturbance such as the large sewage system that occupies the space between Trench 4 and Trench 6.

## **Acknowledgements**

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Assistance on site was provided by Emma Rees. Graphics and illustrations were completed by Bryan Crossan. The site was surveyed by Jonathan Moller.

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## APPENDIX 1 – SPECIALIST REPORTS

### Flint (*Lawrence Billington*)

A small assemblage of 12 worked flints and two fragments of burnt, unworked, flint were recovered from the excavations (Table 1). The assemblage is dominated by flake based waste in the form of hard hammer struck flakes and irregular waste.

Trench	Feature	Context	secondary flake	tertiary flake	irregular waste	flake core	end scraper	total worked	unworked burnt no.	unworked burnt weight (g)
2	11	15	1		4	1		6		
2	11	15		1				1		
4	23	36	2					2		
8	56	74							1	12
9	78	101	1					1		
11	89	122			1			1		
11	89	122							1	2
13	97	157					1	1		

**Table 1. Quantification of the flint assemblage**

The only retouched tool in the assemblage is an end scraper from F. 97. Whilst this piece is not strongly diagnostic the character of the flake blank and retouch suggest a Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date. A total of seven flints were recovered from pit F. 11, making up over half of the total worked assemblage. All but one of these pieces clearly derives from a single medium sized sub-rounded flint cobble with an abraded and smooth cortex. This cobble has been split open and has broken along incipient fracture planes resulting in five irregular chunks, one of which has been further worked as a core to remove a series of flakes. Two of the irregular chunks and the core can be refitted to reconstruct what appears to be approximately a third of the original nodule. This assemblage clearly represents a discrete episode of flintworking with a nodule of rather poor quality flint having been broken into chunks, at least one of which was used as a core, before being discarded. Some of the missing pieces of nodule, including the flakes struck from the core, may have been removed for use as tools. Technologically this flintwork demonstrates a highly expedient approach to core reduction and, as such, is highly unlikely to date to before the later Neolithic and is more likely to represent later prehistoric (Middle Bronze Age to Iron Age) activity. The remainder of the flintwork from the site consists of flake based waste technologically consistent with the material from F. 11, characterised by relatively broad and thick hard hammer struck flakes and irregular waste.



### Prehistoric Pottery (*Matt Brudenell, pers.comm.*)

A brief assessment of the pottery from F.11 in Trench 2 suggests that it is in keeping with local Early Iron Age fabrics and styles.

### Medieval Pottery (*spot dates by David Hall*)

Cat No.	Context	Feature	Trench	Fabric	No. of Sherds	Date	Notes	Wt. (g)
1	9	7	1	buff fineware	1	15th		5
4	15	11	2	prehistoric	13		2 rim sherds	127
10	18	12	3	sandy shelly	1			9
12	27	19	3	shelly ware	9	13th		33
13	29	20	3	Stamford	2	12th		5
13	29	20	3	grey ware	8	12th	Thetford jar rim with thumb strip decoration	108
13	29	20	3	St Neots	7	12th	Interred, 2 jar sherds	89
13	29	20	3	Dark shelly	17	12th	1 base sherd	115
17	33	22	4	Samian	1	Roman		1
18	36	23	4	grey ware	2	13th	2=1	23
21	42	26	5	Stamford	4	12th	1 base sherd	32
21	42	26	5	Grey ware	1	12th-13th	Thumbed jar rim	11
21	42	26	5	St Neots type shelly ware	2	12th		7
23	45	28	5	Stamford	2	12th	2=1 small jar	20
24	46	29	5	Thetford type	3	12th	Applied strip decoration	214
25	47	30	5	St Neots	2	12th		13
25	47	30	5	green glaze	1	13th?		9
28	49	32	5	Thetford	2	12th		21
28	49	32	5	pink shelly	3	13th	2 rim, jar. Illustration	82
33	58	38	7	Staffordshire	1	17th-18th		34
35	60	39	7	Post-med	5	19th	obsidian ware	114
37	63	41	7	Stanion ware	1	13th	applied strip, green glaze	24
39	66	43	7	Post-med GRE	1	18th-19th		34
39	66	43	7	NVCC, Roman	1	Roman		15
39	66	43	7	MED	4	13th		8
42	67	43	7	pink shelly	4	13th		29
42	67	43	7	Stanion type	1	13th		25
46	70	45	7	tile	1	?		71
46	70	45	7	red ware	1	15th		24
48	163	48	6	St Neots	1	12th	jar rim	8
48	163	48	6	block sherds	2	?		6
50	168	53	6	buff gritty	1	13th-14th		1
51	72	55	8	St Neots	7	12th	1 base, interred bowl 11th?	62

58	80	61	8	St Neots	9	12th	lamp base	113
62	95	75	9	grey ware	1	13th		1
62	95	75	9	pink Lyveden	1	13th		1
64	97	76	9	pink Lyveden	1	13th		2
69	104	80	9	pink sherd	1	13th-14th		5
72	115	85	10	Lyveden type	1	?		12
73	122	89	11	grey ware	1	14th		2
88	151	108	14	St Neots	1	12th		3

**Table 2: Spot dates on all collected pottery**

A series of spot dates were provided by David Hall. At this stage, no assessment of the material was made however the prevalence of 12<sup>th</sup> century material is evident. A few residual Roman sherds were noted, and material dating to the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century is also represented, although this material is always associated with areas of modern pits and disturbance.

### **Faunal Remains** (*Vida Rajkovača*)

The evaluation carried out at Sawtry resulted in the recovery of a small faunal assemblage totalling 75 assessable specimens (3246g), of which 36 were possible to assign to species level (48%, Tables 4-6). Four species were identified: cattle, sheep/goat, horse and dog. The third most common 'food species' pig was surprisingly absent from the assemblage (Table 3). The material was quite evenly spread out throughout the investigated area, although a few trenches generated more bone than others. For instance, Trenches 5, 7, 8 and 14 generated a combined total of 44 specimens weighing 2706g, which equates to 58.7% of the assemblage.

The assemblage is dominated by the bone dated to the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> century, and although the different dates were given below, for the purpose of this assessment, the assemblage will be considered as one.

<b>Taxon</b>	<b>NISP</b>	<b>%NISP</b>	<b>MNI</b>
Cow	15	41.7	1
Sheep/ goat	7	19.4	1
Horse	10	27.8	1
Dog	4	11.1	1
<b>Sub-total to species</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>.</b>
Cattle-sized	27	.	.
Sheep-sized	12	.	.
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>.</b>	<b>.</b>

**Table 3: Total Number of Identified Specimens for all species from all features.**

The assemblage showed an overall moderate to quite good level of preservation, with minimal surface erosion and weathering. Gnawing was recorded on 13 specimens, and this is quite high (17.3%) suggesting the bone was within reach of scavengers for some time before it was incorporated into the fills. Butchery was also relatively common for an assemblage of this size, with a total of six specimens being affected (8%). With the exception of a cattle metapodial shaft fragment showing signs of being

axially split, the butchery marks were all made up of fine knife marks consistent with meat removal and were recorded on horse, cattle or cattle-sized elements.

The distribution of bone by trench and by feature is given in tables below. The assemblage is exclusively made up of domestic species and this heavy reliance on livestock is in keeping with an earlier medieval date. The horse component is surprisingly high (27.8%); this species is rarely of secondary importance in domestic sites across the country. The quantity of horse and surprising absence of pig have to be taken with caution, however, given the small size of the collected assemblage.

Taxon	Trench 1		Trench 2	Trench 3	Trench 4	Trench 5					Trench 6	Total NISP
			EIA	12th C		12th C	12th C		12th C			
	F.9	F.10	F.11	F.20	F.24	F.26	F.30	F.31	F.32	F.34	F.51	
Cow	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	1	3
Sheep/goat	.	.	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	5
Horse	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	1	2	.	.	4
Dog	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
<b>Sub-total to species</b>	.	.	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	.	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>
Cattle-sized	.	1	.	2	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	5
Sheep-sized	1	1	.	1	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>22</b>

Table 4: Number of Identified Specimens for all species from trenches 1-6.

Taxon	Trench 7				Trench 8					Trench 9			Total NISP
	17-18th. C	19th. C	13th. C	15th. C	12th. C			12th. C		13th. C			
	F.38	F.39	F.43	F.45	F.55	F.57	F.58	F.61	F.65	F.75	F.77	F.78	
Cow	1	.	1	1	.	1	.	.	2	.	1	4	11
Sheep/goat	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Horse	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	.	.	.	.	3
<b>Sub-total to species</b>	<b>1</b>	.	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	.	<b>1</b>	.	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	.	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>16</b>
Cattle-sized	.	1	2	.	1	.	.	1	.	1	.	1	7
Sheep-sized	.	.	1	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>26</b>

Table 5: Number of Identified Specimens for all species from trenches 7-9

	<i>Trench 10</i>		<i>Trench 12</i>	<i>Trench 13</i>	<i>Trench 14</i>			<b>Total NISP</b>
					14 <sup>th</sup> - 17 <sup>th</sup> C			
<b>Taxon</b>	<b>F.81</b>	<b>F.84</b>	<b>F.94</b>	<b>F.97</b>	<b>F.98</b>	<b>F.99</b>	<b>F.109</b>	
Cow	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1
Horse	.	1	.	.	.	1	1	3
Dog	.	.	.	.	3	.	.	3
<b>Sub-total to species</b>	.	<b>1</b>	.	.	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>
Cattle- sized	3	.	5	.	3	.	4	15
Sheep- sized	.	1	.	1	3	.	.	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>27</b>

**Table 6: Number of Identified Specimens for all species from trenches 10-14**

The evident domestic character of the assemblage is reflected in the reliance on domestic sources of food, the type of butchery, and the relatively large percentage of gnawing marks which implies the material was left exposed for some time before being incorporated into occupation layers.

### **Burnt and Worked Stone** (*Simon Timberlake*)

#### *Building stone?*

<045> Trench 7 F.43 (68) Surface find. Weight 1.172 kg; Dimensions 100mm x 70mm x 70mm. Broken jointed block of a fissile laminated bioclastic limestone rich in fossil oyster shell, possibly *Praeexogyra* sp., most probably from a horizon in the Jurassic Estuarine Series (Bathonian). Not worked (dressed) in any way, but may have been used as rough building stone, or else originally as a faced block, since broken up. There is evidence of burning (sooting) on one external face.

#### *Burnt stone*

<009> Trench 2 F.11 (15). Weight 1.042kg. x 12 heat-fractured fragments of selected sandstone cobbles, mostly of a pale-coloured micaceous sandstone, but with two pieces of well-rounded quartzitic sandstone pebble, all of them with a pinkish fire-oxidised patina on the exterior.

<044> Trench 7 F.43 (68). Weight 108g. Part of a heat-fractured cobble composed of pale-coloured micaceous sandstone.

#### *Worked stone*

<056> Trench 8 F.57 (75). Weight 60g. x 8 small and somewhat weathered fragments of a light coloured (andesitic-basalt?) lava quern. These are no more than the crumbs remaining of probably a heat-fractured quernstone, and as such indicate no useful diagnostic features. Most likely Roman – Saxon in date and from hand rotary querns

originally imported from the Eifel region of Germany (Niedermendig – Andernach quarries).

### *Commentary*

The small amount of burnt stone (c.1 kg) recovered mostly came from one feature (F.11) within Trench 2. The form of this burnt stone (i.e. as heat-fractured fragments from rounded sandstone cobbles (<100mm diameter)) is most typical of Bronze Age – Early Iron Age cooking pits, most likely used as pot boilers. The possible rough building stone fragment from Trench 7 (F.43) would not be out of place in a Roman context, whilst the small undiagnostic fragments of lava quern from Trench 8 (F.57) likewise *may* be of Roman origin, dating from the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century to the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD.

### **Burnt Clay** (*Simon Timberlake*)

<007> Trench 2 F.11 (15). Weight 82g. x 15 small pieces of a quite weathered buff-pink coloured gritty daub, with evidence for much grog (crushed fired daub) and occasionally small flint grit inclusions. Several of the pieces have external flat surfaces.

<015> Trench 3 F.20 (29). Weight 42g. A single piece of hard-fired pinkish-brown-light grey coloured daub (40mm x 35mm x 30mm) with fine burnt-out organic inclusions, similar to <075> and <077>. The presence of one uneven external? surface also implies that this is a fragment of walling that has been subsequently hard-fired through the burning of the structure, or else from the burning of some of the demolished materials.

<030> Trench 5 F.5 (49). Weight 12g. Two small pieces of pinkish-grey burnt clay.

<054> Trench 8 F.56 (74). Weight 36g; 50mm x 40mm x 23mm. A fairly amorphous weathered lump of fairly hard-fired sandy daub, with traces of flint grit-size inclusions, and a reduced grey interior and pink-brown oxidised exterior.

<060> Trench 8 F.64 (84). Weight 24g; 40mm diam. A hard-fired and un-weathered lump of daub composed of a non-sandy and very reduced (dark grey) fabric.

<075> Trench 11 F.89 (122). Weight 58g; Two unevenly shaped pieces, each c. 40mm diameter. Slightly weathered fragments of a hard-fired daub with a red oxidised silty fabric with moderate amounts of burnt-out organic (chaff/ grass) and large (c. 10mm diameter) flint inclusions. Traces of stick holes suggest these came from part of a daub (hut?) walling, which was subsequently burnt.

<077> Trench 11 F.92 (128). Weight 48g. x7 small pieces of mostly reddish oxidised silty daub with flint and organic inclusions similar to <075>. Weathered (waterworn) with little evidence of structure.

### *High-fired materials – brick and tile*

<082> Trench 14 F.98 (139). Weight 98g (which includes c. 20g of clay roof tile). Five weathered and broken fragments of pinkish (hand-made?) brick plus two small fragments of orange-red roofing tile (15mm thick), the latter with traces of mortar adhering. Uncertain date.

#### *Commentary*

The small amount of burnt clay or daub (302g) recovered from this site shows differential degrees of weathering, and in general occurs in pieces too small to be diagnostic, yet the impression obtained is that these most probably derive from walling material or from oven structures (wattle and daub) rather than from fired clay objects such as loom weights. The majority of this burnt daub comes from features within Trench 11 (106g), with smaller amounts from Trench 2 F.11 (82g) and Trench 8 (60g). That from F.89 (Trench 11) is most clearly derived from the burning of wattle and daub walling. The burnt clay may not all come from similar dated contexts, but some could be of Iron Age – Romano-British date.

### **Environmental Results** (*Anne de Vareilles*)

#### *Methodology*

The 4 bulk soil samples taken to assess the preservation potential were processed using an Ankara-type flotation machine. The flots were collected in 300µm aperture meshes and the remaining heavy residues washed over a 1mm mesh. The flots were dried indoors prior to analysis. The heavy residues did not dry in time for this assessment report but all findings from the >4mm fraction will be added at a later stage. Dry flots were separated through a stack of sieves; fractions were sorted and macro remains identified under a low power binocular microscope (6x-40x magnification) by the author. Nomenclature follows Zohary and Hopf (2000) for cereals and Stace (1997) for all other flora. All environmental remains are listed in Table 7.

#### *Preservation*

The archaeobotanical remains were all carbonised. Seeds and grains were well preserved in the 12<sup>th</sup> century A.D. features, with fine, delicate elements surviving. The early Iron Age feature and medieval F.26 produced clay-rich samples that do not appear to have floated very successfully. A brief look through the heavy residues showed that some charred plant remains remained, presumably laden with fine clay particles within their carbon structures. Fine, intrusive rootlets were present throughout. Molluscs were absent, presumably as a result of a relatively low soil pH.

Sample number		1	2	3	4
Context		15	15	42	29
Feature		11	11	26	20
Feature description		top layer	base layer	Ditch	Pit?
Date		E.I.A. Pit		12-13th C.	12th C.
Sample volume - litres		14 L.	12 L.	14 L.	12 L.
Flot fraction examined -%		100%	100%	100%	100%
large charcoal (>4mm)		+	+	-	+
med. charcoal (2-4mm)		++	++	-	++
small charcoal (<2mm)		+++	+++	+++	+++
vitrified			-	-	
estimated charcoal volume – (ml)		1 ml.	1 ml.	<1 ml.	1 ml.
<b>Cereal and wild plant remains</b>					
<i>Hordeum/ Triticum</i> sp.	Barley or wheat	1			2
<i>Triticum eastivum sensu lato</i>	free-threshing wheat			1	23
<i>Triticum</i> sp.	Indeterminate wheat				11
<i>Avena</i> sp.	Oat				24
Indeterminate cereal grain fragment				3	++
<i>T.aestivum</i> sl. Rachis node	Hexaploid wheat chaff				2
<i>T.aestivum</i> sl. Rachis node	Tetraploid wheat chaff				1
<i>T.aestivum</i> sl. Rachis node	Free-threshing chaff				8
<i>T.spelta/dicoccum</i> glume bse	Spelt/Emmer chaff				1
Straw culm node					2
<i>Ranunculus</i> cf. <i>flammula</i>	Lesser Spearwort				1
<i>Chenopodium</i> sp.	Goosefoots			1	
<i>Atriplex patula</i> L./ <i>prostrata</i> Boucher ex DC	Oraches				5
<i>Chenopodium/ Atriplex</i> sp.	Goosefoot/ Orache				5
<i>Vicia / Lathyrus</i> sp.	Vetches / Wild Pea				2
<i>Vicia / Lathyrus / Pisum</i> sp.	Vetches / Wild Pea / Pea				8 frags.
<i>Medicago / Trifolium</i> sp.	Medics or Clover			2	5
<i>Odontites verna</i> (Bellardi) Dumort.	Red Bartsia			3	5
<i>Galium aparine</i> L.	Cleavers				1
<i>Anthemis cotula</i> L.	Stinking mayweed			11	13
<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i> (L.) Schultz-Bip.	Scentless Mayweed				1
<i>Cladium mariscus</i> (L.) Pohl	Great Fen Sedge				1
<i>Lolium</i> sp	Rye grass				3
Large Poaceae	>4mm long wild grass			1	5
Medium Poaceae	2-4mm long wild grass				6
Small Poaceae	<2mm long wild grass			2	4
Indet. Poaceae fragments	wild/cultivated grass			2	++
Indet. Poaceae culm node	grass stem node				2
Indeterminate seed				1	3
<b>Other biological items</b>					
Fish scale					1

**Table 7: Plant macro-remains from bulk soil samples. Note: both cereal grain & indet. grass frags. could include oat. Key: '-' 1 or 2 items, '+' <10 items, '++' 10-50 items, '+++>50 items.**

*Early Iron Age pit, F.11 [15]*

Both the top (sample 1) and bottom (sample 2) layers of the context were sampled. They had the same low volumes of charcoal (1ml) and only one other archaeobotanical remain: a poorly preserved barley or wheat grain (*Hordeum/Triticum* sp.) from the top layer. As mentioned above, more plant-macro remains may still lie in the heavy residues. The charcoal concentrations do not seem as high as that described during excavations. Heavily comminuted charcoal can give a dark, 'charcoal-rich' appearance to an archaeological layer but be too fine to come through into the flot, where only pieces >300µm will be quantified.

*12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century A.D. ditch, F.26 [42]*

The sample contained very little charcoal, a maximum of four cereal grains and 23 wild plant seeds. Stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*) occurs most often, perhaps not surprisingly as it is an indicator of heavy, clay-rich soils. These remains probably represent charred arable weed seeds discarded after cereal processing.

*12<sup>th</sup> century A.D. pit/ditch, F.20 [29]*

Charred plant remains from potentially various crop assemblages were recovered: free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum sensu lato*, both hexaploid (durum wheat) and tetraploid (bread wheat)), oat (*Avena* sp., large enough to suggest *Avena sativa*), and possibly a pulse. Fragments of a pulse(s) large enough to be a domesticated bean or pea were recovered but could not be identified. Evidence for spelt (*Triticum spelta*) was found amongst the free-threshing wheat. The latter is a remnant from the Roman period where it was a preferred crop, and not an uncommon find in Saxo-Norman features (cf. Greig 1991). The wild plant seeds associated with these crops cannot be easily separated, however the majority were common arable weed seeds of damp ground. Some of the plants, such as lesser spearwort (*Ranunculus flammula*) and great-fen sedge (*Cladium mariscus*), are unlikely to have grown in ploughed fields and might instead have originated from the field margins or within the settlement. Great-fen sedge was a valuable economic resource with extensive uses: thatching, bedding, flooring, fuel in bread ovens, etc (Rowell 1986). It grows wild in the fen and there is no reason to suggest that it has not always been a valuable, managed resource.

*Conclusion*

At present, the plant remains are not numerous enough to provide period-specific archaeological data of interest. However, the potential for rich carbonised plant assemblages is high as clay is a good preservation medium for delicate charred plant remains. Flotation may take a little longer but results include whole elements with delicate structures. Waterlogged remains may also be found closer to the water-table.



## APPENDIX 2 – TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

<b>Trench 1</b>		
<b>General Description</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
Oxford Clay natural - a pale bluish grey clay with occasional orange-grey patches and occasional large cobbles and medium flint nodules. Ten features were recorded in this trench; 8 E-W aligned linear features (Fs1,2,3,5,6,7,8,9), a small possible pit (F.4) and a possible ditch terminus (F.10). Most of these features are likely to be late drainage and/or agricultural features.	<b>Av. Topsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.23
	<b>Av. Subsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.25
	<b>Width (m)</b>	2
	<b>Length (m)</b>	37.65

<b>Trench 2</b>		
<b>General Description</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
Oxford Clay natural.. Three probable tree-throw features and a single prehistoric pit containing Early Iron Age pottery (F.11)	<b>Av. Topsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.23
	<b>Av. Subsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.23
	<b>Width (m)</b>	2
	<b>Length (m)</b>	26.3

<b>Trench 3</b>		
<b>General Description</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
Oxford Clay natural at N end, but toward south, clay is overlain by mid brown-orange sandy clayish silt. A total of 11 features recorded including one E-W ditch (F.13), two probable ditch terminals (Fs.12, 110) and a series of pit features, many intercutting (Fs.14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21). Pottery from excavated features and surface finds suggests 12 <sup>th</sup> and 13 <sup>th</sup> century dates.	<b>Av. Topsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.22
	<b>Av. Subsoil Depth (m)</b>	0..26
	<b>Width (m)</b>	2
	<b>Length (m)</b>	35.35

<b>Trench 4</b>		
<b>General Description</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
Trench 4 exposed a natural substrate of mid brown-orange sandy clayish silt. Three features were recorded; a NW-SE ditch (F.22), a possible ditch terminus (F.23) and a very large, but moderately shallow NW-SE ditch (F.24), possibly a boundary feature. Insufficient dating evidence.	<b>Av. Topsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.24
	<b>Av. Subsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.26
	<b>Width (m)</b>	2
	<b>Length (m)</b>	31

<b>Trench 5</b>		
<b>General Description</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
Oxford Clay natural. A total of 16 features noted including two NE-SW ditches (Fs.26,30), two E-W ditches (Fs.27,28) two NW-SE gullies (fs101,106) and eight posthole/pit features (Fs.29,31,32,33,34,102,103,104,105,107). Also two modern (19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> C) probable refuse pits (Fs.26,35). Pottery collected or seen on surface of majority of features and indicate 12 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> century date.	<b>Av. Topsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.20
	<b>Av. Subsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.37
	<b>Width (m)</b>	2
	<b>Length (m)</b>	39.5

<b>Trench 6</b>		
<b>General Description</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
Oxford Clay natural. A total of seven features exposed, none excavated. Two postholes (Fs.47,49), a possible pit (F.50), an E-W ditch/pit (F.52) and N-S aligned ditch segments (Fs48,50,53).	<b>Av. Topsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.18
	<b>Av. Subsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.35
	<b>Width (m)</b>	2
	<b>Length (m)</b>	20.4

<b>Trench 7</b>		
<b>General Description</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
The base of six modern (19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> C) refuse pits recorded toward W end, two possible NW-SE ditches (Fs.42,46), posthole (F.44) two NE-SW ditches (Fs.45,111) and a probable well feature (F.43). The well feature produced 13 <sup>th</sup> century, Roman and post-medieval finds. Significant ground disturbance and bioturbation to W end of trench.	<b>Av. Topsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.19
	<b>Av. Subsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.28
	<b>Width (m)</b>	2
	<b>Length (m)</b>	27.5

<b>Trench 8</b>		
<b>General Description</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
A total of 13 features including one modern (19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> C) pit/ditch (F.54), two possible furrow features (Fs.55,108), two pit features (F.62,63) and six linear features of varying alignment (Fs.56,57,58,59,60,61,64,65).	<b>Av. Topsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.17
	<b>Av. Subsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.23
	<b>Width (m)</b>	2
	<b>Length (m)</b>	36

<b>Trench 9</b>		
<b>General Description</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
Oxford Clay natural. A total of 16 features including a curve of four postholes (Fs.66,67,68,69), three pit features (Fs.70,73,80) and eight linear features of variable orientation (Fs.71,72,74,75,76,77,78,79).	<b>Av. Topsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.15
	<b>Av. Subsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.25
	<b>Width (m)</b>	2
	<b>Length (m)</b>	25.2

<b>Trench 10</b>		
<b>General Description</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
Oxford Clay natural. A total of eight features revealed including a N-S gully (F.82), three probable tree-throws (Fs.81,87,88) and four pit bases (Fs.83,84,85,86).	<b>Av. Topsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.15
	<b>Av. Subsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.43
	<b>Width (m)</b>	2
	<b>Length (m)</b>	26.5

<b>Trench 11</b>		
<b>General Description</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	NW-SE
Natural: Mid brown-orange sandy clayish silt. One NE-SW linear feature (F.89) containing prehistoric pottery and four possible contemporary pit features (Fs.90,91,92,93).	<b>Av. Topsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.16
	<b>Av. Subsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.35
	<b>Width (m)</b>	2
	<b>Length (m)</b>	21.2

<b>Trench 12</b>		
<b>General Description</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
	<b>Av. Topsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.17
	<b>Av. Subsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.45
	<b>Width (m)</b>	2
	<b>Length (m)</b>	20.6
Natural: Mid brown-orange sandy clayish silt. A single undated N-S ditch (F.95) and a possible medieval(?) pond feature (F.94).		

<b>Trench 13</b>		
<b>General Description</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW
	<b>Av. Topsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.23
	<b>Av. Subsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.28
	<b>Width (m)</b>	2
	<b>Length (m)</b>	25
Natural: Mid brown-orange sandy clayish silt. A NW-SE modern drain (F.96) at south-western edge of trench and a single prehistoric(?) N-S ditch (F.97) which yielded an end scraper.		

<b>Trench 14</b>		
<b>General Description</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	NW-SE
	<b>Av. Topsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.19
	<b>Av. Subsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.24
	<b>Width (m)</b>	2
	<b>Length (m)</b>	52
Oxford Clay natural. Heavily bioturbated at SE end and along entire northern edge due to extensive adjacent hedge line. Areas of rooting/disturbed natural toward centre of trench, where a cow had been buried. Presumably recent owing to condition of bone and organic content of backfill. Left unexcavated. At NE end of trench, a series of re-cutting drainage ditches (Fs.98,99,109) were partially excavated and yielded finds of 14 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> C. Ditches show as an earthwork extending N-S across field.		

<b>Trench 15</b>		
<b>General Description</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW
	<b>Av. Topsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.22
	<b>Av. Subsoil Depth (m)</b>	0.28
	<b>Width (m)</b>	2
	<b>Length (m)</b>	24.8
Oxford Clay natural. No archaeological features. Heavily bioturbated at southern end, owing to extensive adjacent hedges and trees.		

**APPENDIX 3: Table of Feature Contexts**

Trench	Context	Type	Feature	Type	Orientation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Finds
1	1	Fill	1	Furrow/ditch?	E-W	Mid grey-brown clay silt with occasional small stones. Firm	n/a	0.6	0.05	
	2	Fill	2	Ditch	E-W	Mid grey-brown clay silt with occasional small stones. Firm	n/a	0.35	0.13	
	3	Fill	3	Furrow/ditch?	E-W	Mid grey-brown clay silt with occasional small stones. Firm	n/a	0.65	0.05	
	4	Fill	4	Pit?	n/a	Dark grey clay silt with occasional small stones and rare charcoal flecks. Firm				
	5	Cut	4			Variable edges and a flattish base.	?	0.55	0.12	
	6	Fill	5	Ditch	E-W	Mid grey-brown clay silt with occasional small stones. Firm	n/a	0.75	0.05	
	7	Fill	6	Ditch	E-W	Mid grey-brown clay silt with occasional small stones. Firm				
	8	Cut	6			Gently sloping sides, gentle concave base	n/a	0.75	0.12	
	9	Fill	7	Ditch	E-W	Mid grey-brown clay silt with occasional small stones. Firm	n/a	0.55	0.1	PT
	10	Fill	8	Ditch	E-W	Mid grey-brown clay silt with occasional small stones. Firm	n/a	0.5	?	
	11	Fill	9	Ditch	E-W	Mid grey-brown clay silt with occasional small stones. Firm				
	12	Cut	9			Variable edges, concave base	n/a	0.65	0.18	
	13	Fill	10	Terminus	E-W	Mid grey-brown clay silt with occasional small stones. Firm				
	14	Cut	10			Shallow ditch terminus? Gentle sides and flattish base.	n/a	1.1	0.1	

	15	Fill	11			Very dark grey clay silt with frequent charcoal, burnt clay/daub, especially at base of fill. Mod firm.				PT
	16	Fill	11			Mid yellow-grey clay with occasional charcoal flecks and medium sub-angular stones. Firm.				
2	17	Cut	11	Pit	n/a	Circular pit. Near vertical sides and sloped base.	1.2	1.2	0.26	PT, BS, BC, DB, FL, BF
3	18	Fill	12			Mid-dark grey silty clay. Firm				PT
	19	Cut	12	Terminus	SW-NE	Possible gully terminus. Variable edges with a flattish base.	n/a	0.7	0.07	
	20	Fill	13	Ditch	E-W	Mid brownish grey silty clay. Firm	n/a	0.7	?	
	21	Fill	14	Pit	n/a	Mid-dark grey slightly clayish sandy silt. Occ-mod charcoal. Moderately firm.				
	22	Fill	15			Mid-pale grey clay silt with brownish orange sandy silt mottles. Mod firm				
	23	Cut	15	Pit	n/a	Sub-rectangular pit with moderately gentle sides and an uneven base.				
	24	Fill	16	Pit	n/a	Mid-dark grey slightly clayish sandy silt. Occ-mod charcoal. Moderately firm.	1.35	0.9	0.13	
	25	Fill	17	Pit	n/a	Mid-dark grey slightly clayish sandy silt. Occ-mod charcoal. Moderately firm.				
	26	Fill	18	Pit	n/a	Mid-dark grey slightly clayish sandy silt. Occ-mod charcoal. Moderately firm.				
	27	Fill	19			Very dark grey slightly clayish sandy silt. Frequent charcoal flecks and small lumps.				PT
	28	Cut	19	Pit	n/a	Probable pit feature with steep sides. Base unknown	?	0.85	?	
	29	Fill	20	Poss ditch or pit	NE-SW?	Dark grey with orange brown and yellow brown mottles and dark grey-brown patches. Slightly clayish silt. Mod firm.				PT

	30	Cut	20			Possible ditch feature, although could be area of relatively intense pitting. Steeply concave sides and a flattish base.	?	1.7	0.48	
	31	Fill	21	Pit	n/a	Mottled brown, orange brown/yellow brown with dark grey slightly clayish sandy silt.				
	32	Cut	21			Pit mostly obscured by F19 and F20. Sloped base.	?	?	0.42	
4	33	Fill	22	Gully/shallow ditch	NNW-SSE	Pale yellow grey slightly clayish sandy silt.	n/a	0.65	?	PT
	34	Fill	22			Mottled orange-yellow and yellow-grey slightly clayish sandy silt. Heavily bioturbated fill/weathered base				
	35	Cut	22			Gully/shallow ditch with moderately steep sides and a gently concave base	n/a	0.78	0.24	
	36	Fill	23			Mid-pale brown-grey clayish sandy silt.	n/a			PT
	37	Fill	23	Gully/shallow ditch terminus?		Mottled orange-yellow and yellow-grey slightly clayish sandy silt. Heavily bioturbated fill/weathered base				
	38	Cut	23			Possible ditch terminus? Steep sides and flattish base	n/a	0.83	0.19	
	39	Fill	24	Ditch	NW-SE	Mid brown-grey clayish silt.				
	40	Cut	24			Large linear feature with unknown dimensions. Only tested with machine-scoop.	?	c.3.5	0.6	
5	41	Fill	25	Pit		Clay capping of modern (C 19th?) rubbish pit	?	?	?	
	42	Fill	26	Ditch	NE-SW	Dark slightly bluish grey silty clay. Moderately firm.				PT, BN
	43	Cut	26			Steep sided linear feature with a flat base	n/a	1.16	0.2	
	44	Fill	27	Ditch	E-W	Dark bluish grey clay silt. Moderately firm	n/a	c.1.2	?	
	45	Fill	28	Ditch	E-W	Dark bluish grey clay silt. Moderately firm	n/a	c.0.5	?	OT
	46	Fill	29	Pit	n/a	Dark bluish grey clay silt. Moderately firm	1.5	1	?	PT
	47	Fill	30	Ditch	NE-SW	Dark bluish grey clay silt. Moderately firm	n/a	0.8	?	PT
	48	Fill	31	Pit	n/a	Dark bluish grey clay silt. Moderately firm	?	?	?	

	49	Fill	32	Pit	n/a	Dark bluish grey clay silt. Moderately firm	?	?	?	PT
	50	Fill	33	Pit	n/a	Dark bluish grey clay silt. Moderately firm	?	?	?	
	51	Fill	34	Ditch	NE-SW?	Dark bluish grey clay silt. Moderately firm	?	?	?	
	52	Fill	35			Upper fill of modern rubbish (?) pit. Mixed topsoil, subsoil and lumps of orange-brown silty clay. White decaying matter (paper/cardboard?).				
	53	Fill	35			Dark grey silt with mid orange brown banding and lumps.				
	54	Fill	35			Mixed dark bluish grey clay silt with brown orange mottles, streaks and patches. Very friable. Brick, tile, stone, Fe throughout.				
	55	Cut	35	Pit	n/a	Large circular/sub circular pit? Modern debris (C19th-20th). Steep sides, gently concave base?	?	12.5	1.2	
7	56	Fill	36	Pit base	n/a	Mid-dark slightly bluish grey and brown mixed silty clay with mix of modern (C19th-20th) material				
	57	Fill	37	Pit base	n/a	Mid-dark slightly bluish grey and brown mixed silty clay with mix of modern (C19th-20th) material				
	58	Fill	38			Dark-very dark grey clay silt with post-med debris. Firm				PT
	59	Cut	38	Pit base	n/a	Sub-rectangular pit base. Steep sides and flat base	1.5	0.7	0.24	
	60	Fill	39			Mixed/mottled very dark grey and yellow-brown silty clay and clay. Post-med material				
	61	Cut	39	Pit base	n/a	Sub-circular pit base with shallow sides and flattish base	?	2.5	0.05	
	62	Fill	40	Pit base	n/a	Mid-dark slightly bluish grey and brown mixed silty clay with mix of modern (C19th-20th) material				
	63	Fill	41	Pit base	n/a	Mixed/mottled very dark grey and yellow-brown silty clay and clay. Post-med material				PT

	64	Cut	41			Sub-circular pit base with shallow sides and flattish base	?	2.5	0.11			
	65	Fill	42	Gully	NW-SE	Mid-dark bluish grey clay silt. Mod firm. Bone and pottery						
	66	Fill	43			Re-deposited natural capping fill. Mixed mid-pale yellow grey and blue grey clay.				PT, BN		
	67	Fill	43			Mid-dark bluish grey clay silt with charcoal flecks and occasional very large sub-angular and sub-rounded stones.					PT, BN	
	68	Fill	43			Mid-dark bluish grey (slight greenish tinge) and yellow-grey mixed clayish silt.					PT, BN	
	69	Cut	43			Well	n/a	Large sub-square (?) well feature. Very steep/near vertical sides and unknown base	?	c.3	>0.6	
8	70	Fill	54			Disturbed topsoil/subsoil (upper fill of feature). Mixed topsoil and subsoil (mid-dark grey clay silt with brick, tile, decaying matter). Sealed by topsoil.				PT		
	71	Cut	54			Pit?	?	Edge of cut exposed in trench section and in trench plan but not excavated. Steep sides. Presumably similar to F35 in TR 5	?	?	?	Modern debris
	72	Fill	55			Mid-dark grey clay silt with occasional-moderate charcoal.				PT, BN		
	73	Cut	55			Furrow	N-S	Probable furrow remnant. Gentle sides and irregular base. Cut by ditch (?) F108	n/a	?	0.18	
	74	Fill	56			Ditch	N-S	Mid-dark grey clay silt with occasional-moderate charcoal.	n/a	0.6	?	
	75	Fill	57	Ditch	NNW-SSE	Mid-dark grey clay silt with occasional-moderate charcoal.	n/a	1.4	?			
	76	Fill	58	Gully (curvilinear)	N-S	Mid-dark grey clay silt with occasional-moderate charcoal.	n/a	0.35	?			



	77	Fill	59	Gully terminus	N-S	Mid-dark grey clay silt with occasional-moderate charcoal.	n/a	0.3	?	
	78	Fill	60			Mid slightly brownish grey silty clay with occasional stones.				
	79	Fill	60	Ditch	N-S	Moderately gentle sides and concave base	n/a	0.8	0.11	
	80	Fill	61			Mid-dark grey with orange-brown mottles silty clay. Firm.				PT, BN
	81	Cut	61	Ditch	NW-SE	Steep sides (45 degrees), flat base.	n/a	1.15	0.4	
	82	Fill	62	Terminus or pit	n/a	Mid-dark grey with orange-brown mottles silty clay. Firm.	?	2	?	
	83	Fill	63	Terminus or pit	n/a	Mid-dark grey with orange-brown mottles silty clay. Firm.	?	2.4	?	
	84	Fill	64	Ditch	NE-SW	Mid-dark grey with orange-brown mottles silty clay. Firm.	n/a	0.7	?	
	85	Fill	65	Ditch	NE-SW	Mid-dark grey with orange-brown mottles silty clay. Firm.	n/a	1.2	?	
9	86	Fill	66	Posthole	n/a	Very dark grey (bluish grey) clay silt. Firm.	0.15	0.15	?	
	87	Fill	67	Posthole	n/a	Very dark grey (bluish grey) clay silt. Firm.	0.15	0.15	?	
	88	Fill	68	Posthole	n/a	Very dark grey (bluish grey) clay silt. Firm.	0.15	0.15	?	
	89	Fill	69	Posthole	n/a	Very dark grey (bluish grey) clay silt. Firm.	0.15	0.15	?	
	90	Fill	70	Pit?	n/a	Mid grey silt clay with occasional-moderate small stones.	0.15	0.15	?	
	91	Fill	71	Ditch		Mid grey silt clay with occasional-moderate small stones.	n/a	?	?	
	92	Fill	72	Ditch	E-W	Mid grey silt clay with possible central drainage comprising clustered medium cobbles.	n/a	0.35	?	
	93	Fill	73	Pit?	n/a	Mid grey silt clay with occasional-moderate small stones.	?	?	?	

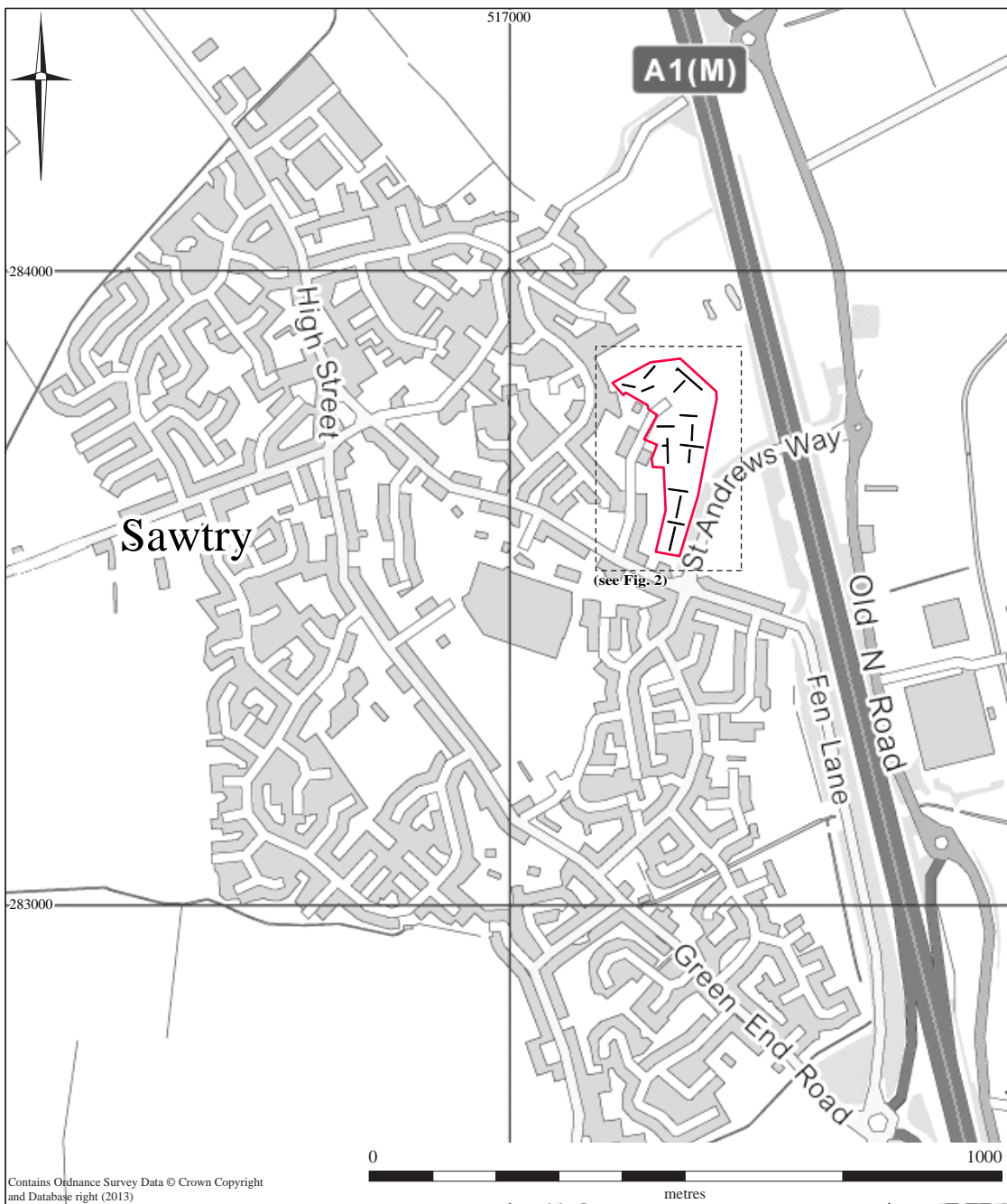
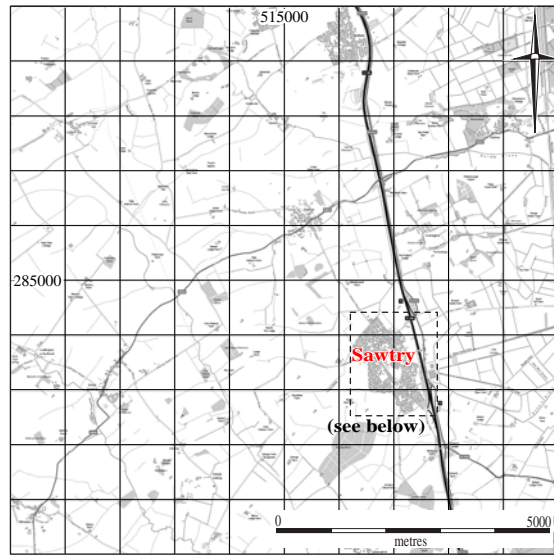
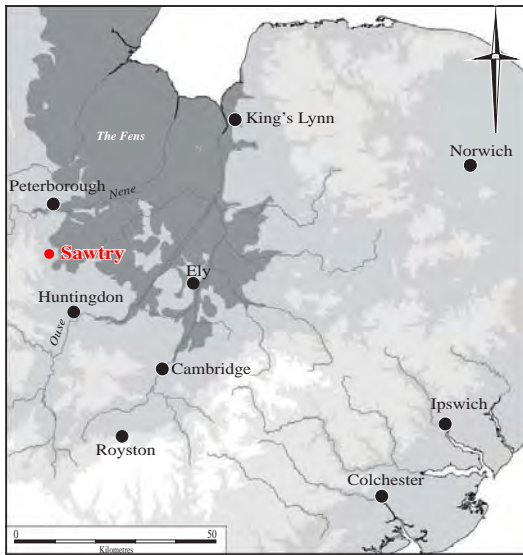
	94	Fill	74	Ditch	N-S	Mid grey silt clay with occasional-moderate small stones.	n/a	1	?	
	95	Fill	75			Mid grey silty clay. Rare stones				PT
	96	Cut	75	Ditch	E-W	Shallow linear with gently sloping sides and a concave base	n/a	0.6	0.1	
	97	Fill	76			Mid grey silty clay with orange brown mottles/streaks				PT
	98	Cut	76	Ditch	E-W	Shallow linear with gently sloping sides and flattish base	n/a	0.8	0.13	
	99	Fill	77			Mid grey silty clay with orange brown mottles/streaks				
	100	Cut	77	Ditch	E-W	Slightly curvilinear shallow ditch with gradual sides and concave base.	n/a	0.6	0.07	
	101	Fill	78			Mid-dark grey clay with orange brown mottles/patches				FL, BN
	102	Cut	78	Poss ditch or pit	NW-SE?	Wide linear feature.? Gradual sides and concave base	?	1.65	0.19	
	103	Fill	79	Gully	E-W	Mid-dark grey clay silt. Firm.	n/a	0.4	?	
	104	Fill	80	Pit	n/a	Mid-dark grey clay silt. Firm.	1.25	0.8	?	PT
10	105	Fill	81			Mid-dark (bluish) grey clay silt				
	106	Fill	81			Burning deposit. Reddish brown clay silt with charcoal				
	107	Fill	81			Dark grey clay silt with occasional scorching/burnt patches				
	108	Cut	81	Tree throw	n/a	Irregular oval in plan. Gradually stepped sides and flattish base	?	0.8	0.22	BN
	109	Fill	82			Mid-pale mottled blue-grey and orange flecks silt clay				
	110	Cut	82	Gully	N-S	Shallow gully with gradual sides and gently concave base		0.52	0.05	

	111	Fill	83			Mid-pale mottled blue-grey and orange flecks silt clay				
	112	Cut	83	Pit	n/a	Shallow pit base. Gradual sides and flattish base	1	1	0.05	
	113	Fill	84			Mid-dark (bluish) grey with orange-brown flecks/streaks clay silt				
	114	Cut	84	Pit	n/a	Shallow pit base with gradual sides and concave base	?	2.5	0.2	
	115	Fill	85			Mid-pale mottled blue-grey and orange flecks silt clay				PT
	116	Cut	85	Pit	n/a	Shallow pit base. Gradual sides and flattish base	1	1	0.1	PT
	117	Fill	86	Pit	n/a	Mid-pale mottled blue-grey and orange flecks silt clay	?	1.5	?	
	118	Fill	87	Pit or tree throw		Mid grey clay silt.				
	119	Cut	87	Pit or tree throw	n/a	Possible tree throw or pit base.	?	1.75	0.1	
	120	Fill	88	Pit or tree throw		Mid grey clay silt.				
	121	Cut	88	Pit or tree throw	n/a	Possible tree throw or pit base.		2	0.1	
11	122	Fill	89			Very dark grey slightly clayish sandy silt. Frequent charcoal flecks, small burnt clay/daub lumps.				PT
	123	Fill	89			Slump/weathered base. Mid yellow-orange sticky silt with dark grey mottles. Bioturbated				
	124	Cut	89	Ditch	NE-SW	Linear feature, near vertical sides and flat base	n/a	0.82	0.31	PT, DB, BC
	125	Fill	90	Pit?	n/a	Very dark grey slightly clayish sandy silt. Frequent charcoal flecks, small burnt clay/daub lumps.	1.6	1	?	
	126	Fill	91			Very dark grey slightly clayish sandy silt. Frequent charcoal flecks, small burnt clay/daub lumps.				
	127	Cut	91	Pit?	n/a	Sub-oval/irregular pit feature	?	1.75?	?	

	128	Fill	92	Pit?	n/a	Very dark grey slightly clayish sandy silt. Frequent charcoal flecks, small burnt clay/daub lumps.	?	?	?	
	129	Fill	93			Very dark grey slightly clayish sandy silt. Frequent charcoal flecks, small burnt clay/daub lumps.				
	130	Cut	93	Pit?	n/a	Sub-oval/irregular pit feature	2.75?	?	?	
	131	Fill	94			Mid brown grey clayish slightly sandy silt. Occasional bone frags				
	132	Cut	94	Pond	n/a	Cut' of possible pond feature. Sub-circular?	?	c.6	?	BN
	133	Layer	95			Pond overflow/hillwash. Red-deposited/scoured natural overlying ditch. Mid orange-grey sandy clay silt.				
	134	Layer	95			Layer of decaying organic material? Dark grey sticky silt.				
	135	Fill	95			Fill of ditch. Mid grey brown mixed clayish sandy silt.				
12	136	Cut	95	Ditch	N-S	Moderately steep sides with a flattish base.	n/a	2	0.4	
13	137	Fill	96	Drain	NW-SE	Pipe at base of fill. Mid-dark brown grey clayish sand silt.	n/a	n/a	n/a	
	138	Void								
14	139	Fill	98			Mid brownish grey silty clay. Bioturbation. Mod frequent cobbles and stones				
	140	Cut	98	Ditch	NNE-SSW	Shallow ditch cut with gradual sides and gently concave base	n/a	2.5	0.35	TL, BN
	141	Fill	99			Mid-dark grey clay silt with orange-brown mottles. Very frequent cobbles				
	142	Cut	99	Gully	NNE-SSW	Drainage gully. Near vertical; sides and flattish base	n/a	0.45	0.25	TL, BN

	143	Fill	100	Pit	n/a	Dark bluish grey clay silt. Fill of cow pit. Organic/sticky	c.2	c.1.5	?	BN (buried cow)
	144	Fill	101	Gully	NW-SE	Mid-dark bluish grey clay silt. Occasional charcoal.	n/a	0.3	?	PT (not kept)
	145	Fill	102	Posthole	n/a	Mid-dark bluish grey clay silt. Occasional charcoal.	0.55	0.4	?	
	146	Fill	103	Posthole	n/a	Mid-dark bluish grey clay silt. Occasional charcoal.	0.4	0.4	?	
	147	Fill	104	Posthole	n/a	Mid-dark bluish grey clay silt. Occasional charcoal.	0.2	0.2	?	
	148	Fill	105	Pit or ditch	?	Mid-dark bluish grey clay silt. Occasional charcoal.	n/a	1.5	?	
	149	Fill	106	Ditch	NW-SE	Mid-dark bluish grey clay silt. Occasional charcoal.	n/a	0.45	?	PT (not kept)
5 (ext)	150	Fill	107	Pit or ditch	?	Mid-dark bluish grey clay silt. Occasional charcoal.	?	?	?	PT (not kept)
	151	Fill	108	Furrow?		Mid-dark blue grey clay silt.	n/a	?	0.21	PT
8	152	Cut	108	Furrow?	N-S?	Shallow feature, not seen clearly in plan. Obscured by re-dep natural. Uneven base	n/a	?	0.22	
	153	Fill	109			Mid-dark grey clay silt with orange-brown mottles. Very frequent cobbles				
14	154	Cut	109	Ditch	NNE-SSW	Wide drainage ditch. Shallow sloping sides and unknown base	n/a	?	?	
	155	Fill	110			Mid grey brown silty clay.				
3	156	Cut	110	Gully	NE-SW	Shallow gully terminus. Gentle sides and concave base.	n/a	0.2	0.08	
13	157	Fill	97	Ditch	N-S	Pale brown-grey clayish sandy silt				
	158	Fill	97			Pale mottled grey and orange clayish silt. Slump/bioturbated edge				
	159	Fill	97			Pale mottled grey and orange clayish silt. Weathered/bioturbated base				

	160	Cut	97			Moderately steep sides and flattish base	n/a	1.4	0.03	FL, BN
8	161	Fill	108	Furrow?	N-S	Re-deposited natural. Mid-pale brown grey silt clay.				
6	162	Fill	47	Posthole	n/a	Mid-dark bluish grey clay silt.	0.4	0.4	?	
	163	Fill	48	Ditch	N-S	Mid-dark bluish grey clay silt.	n/a	?	?	PT
	164	Fill	49	Posthole	n/a	Mid-dark bluish grey clay silt.	0.35	0.35	?	
	165	Fill	50	Pit?	n/a	Mid-dark bluish grey clay silt.	?	?	?	
	166	Fill	51	Ditch	N-S	Mid-dark bluish grey clay silt.	n/a	0.6	?	
	167	Fill	52	Ditch	E-W	Mid-dark bluish grey clay silt.	n/a	0.8	?	PT
	168	Fill	53	Ditch	N-S	Mid-dark bluish grey clay silt.	n/a	0.6	?	
	169	Void								
	170	Void								
7	171	Fill	44	Posthole	n/a	Mid-dark bluish grey clay silt. Mod firm.	0.5	0.25	?	
	172	Fill	45	Ditch	NE-SW	Mid-dark bluish grey clay silt. Mod firm.	n/a	1.3	?	
	173	Fill	46	Ditch?	NW-SE	Mid-dark bluish grey clay silt. Mod firm.	n/a	?	?	
	174	Fill	111	Drainage ditch	NE-SE	Mid-dark grey clay silt. Mod firm.	n/a	0.8	?	



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Figure 1. Location Plan.

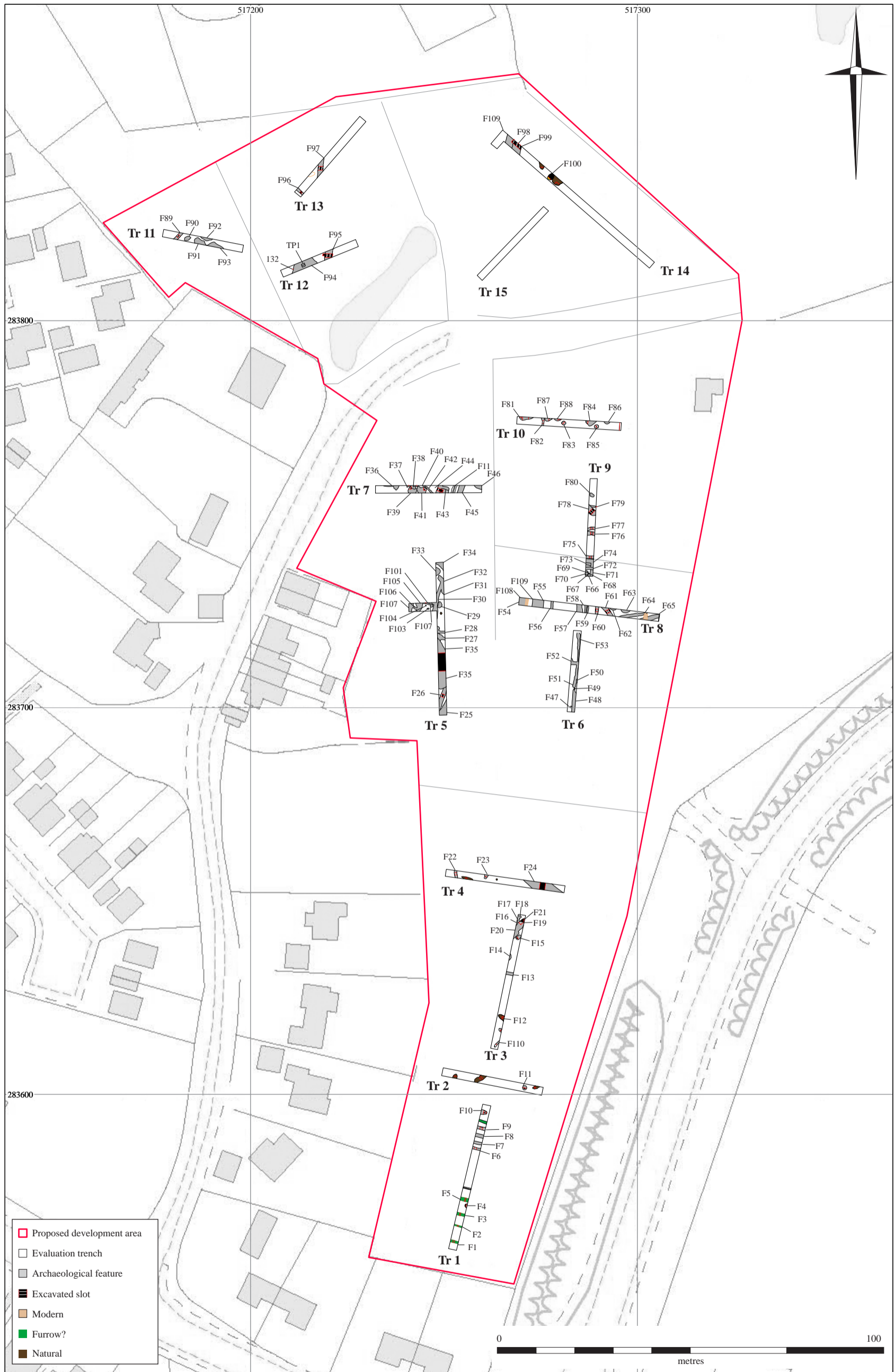
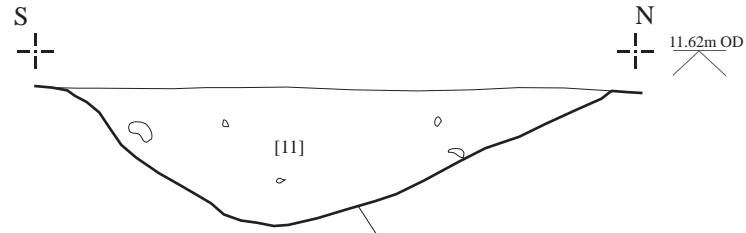


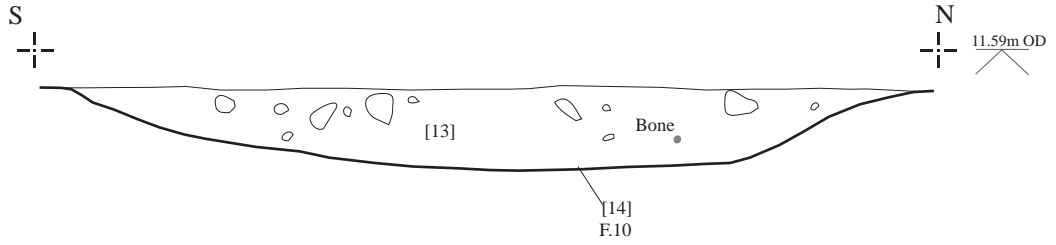
Figure 2. Trench Plan.



**Trench 1**



**Trench 1**



**Trench 2**

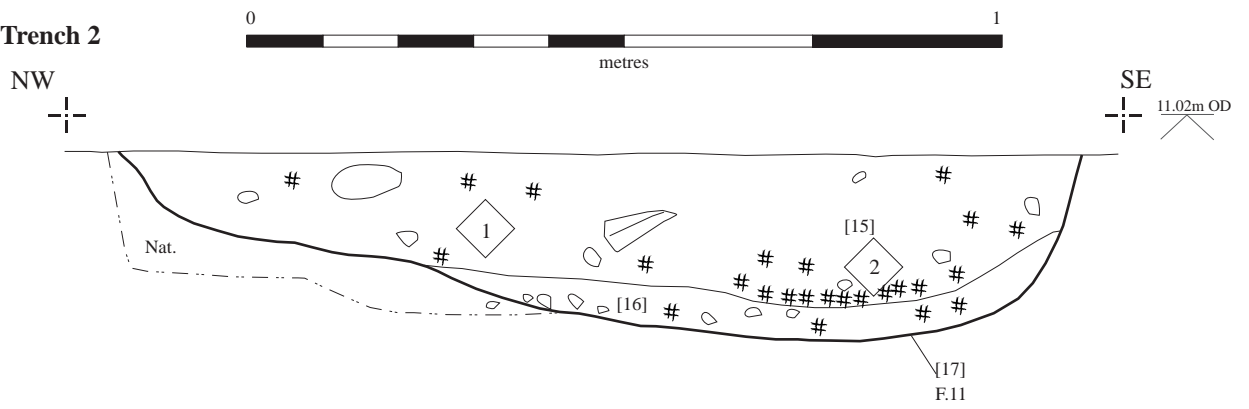
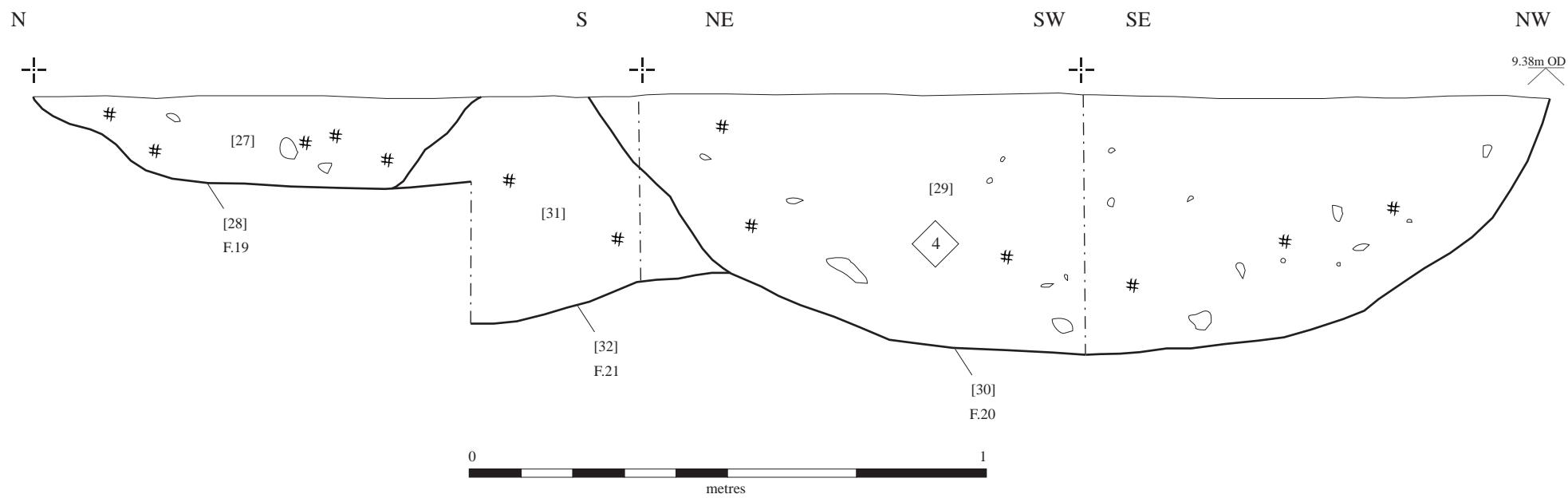
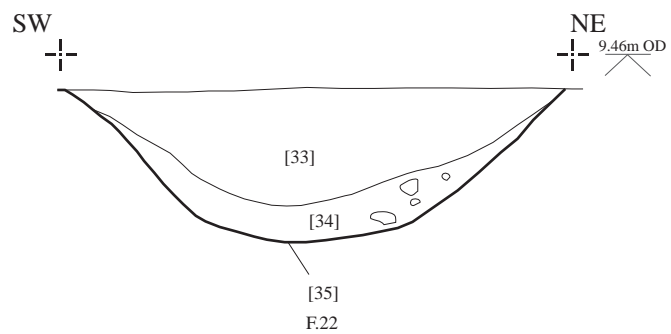


Figure 3. Sections in Trench 1 and 2, with Photograph of Trench 2, F.11.

### Trench 3



### Trench 4



### Trench 5

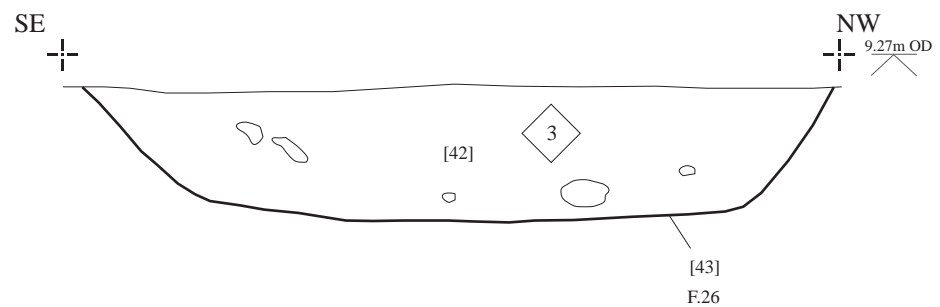
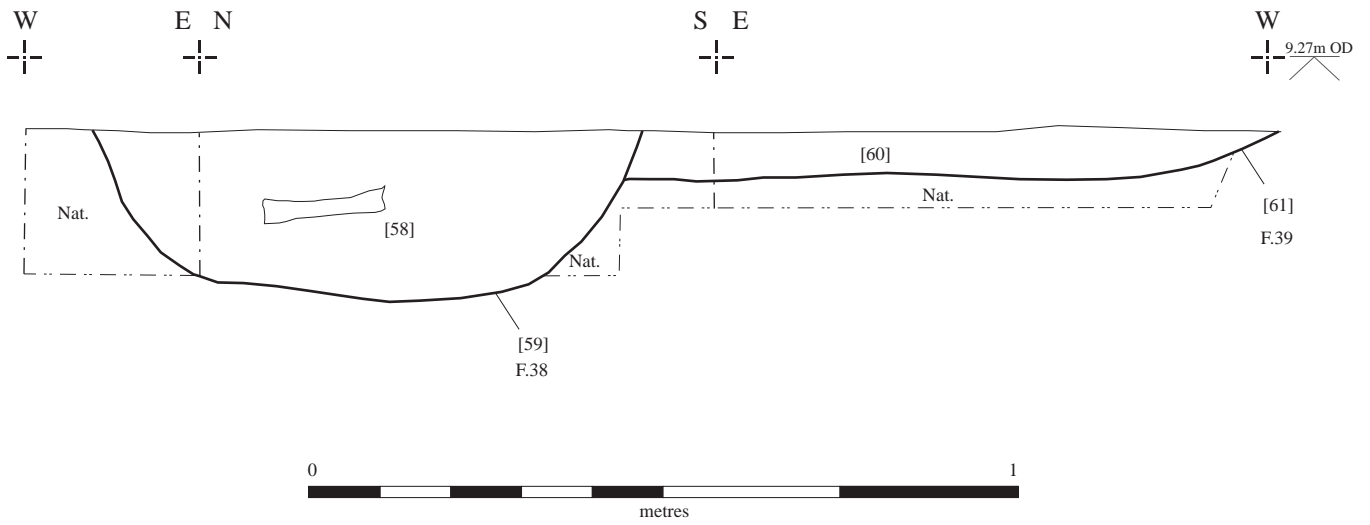
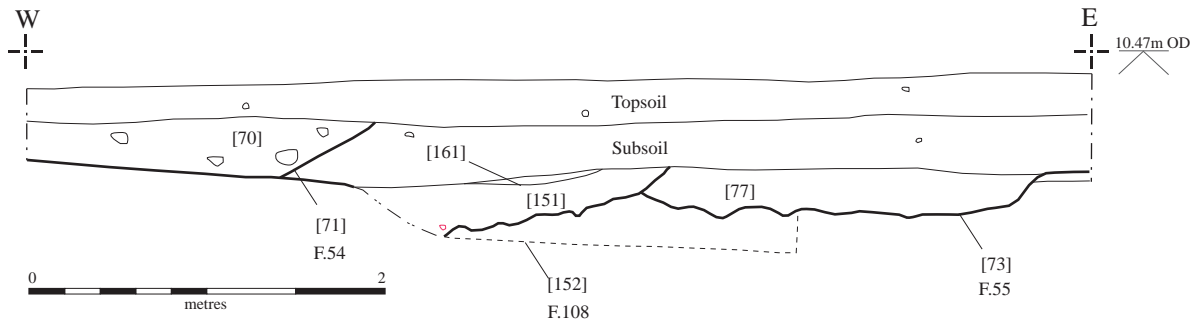


Figure 4. Sections in Trench 3, 4 and 5.

**Trench 7 Modern pit bases**



**Trench 8 Modern pit and furrows**



**Trench 8**

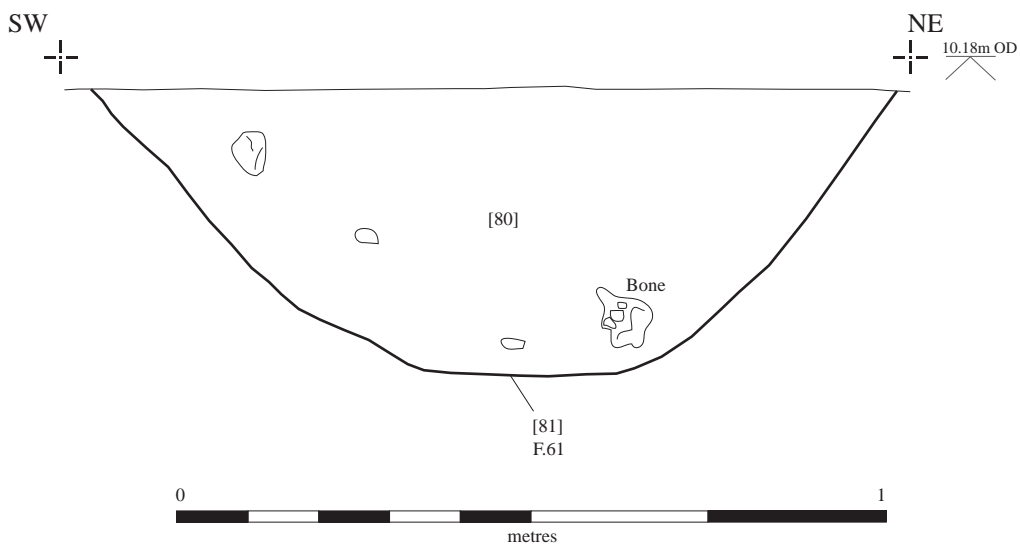
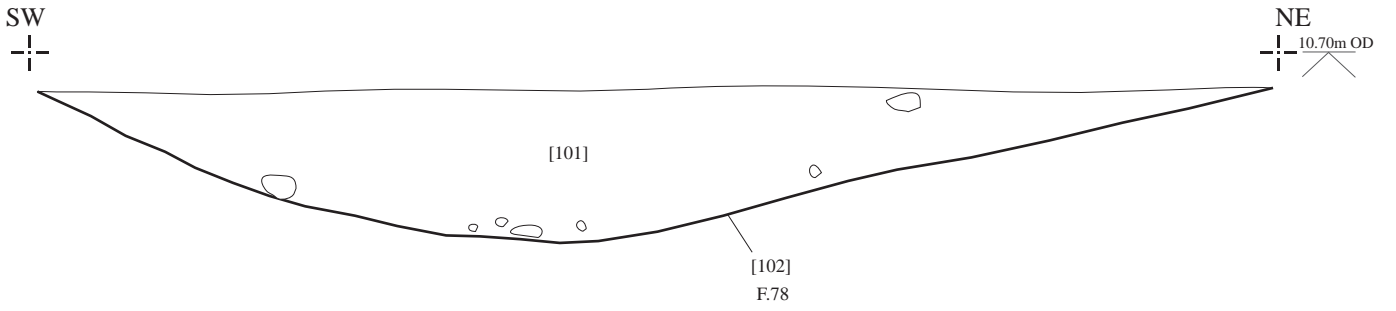
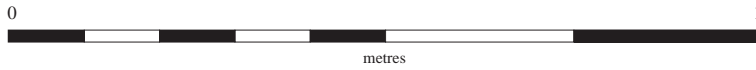
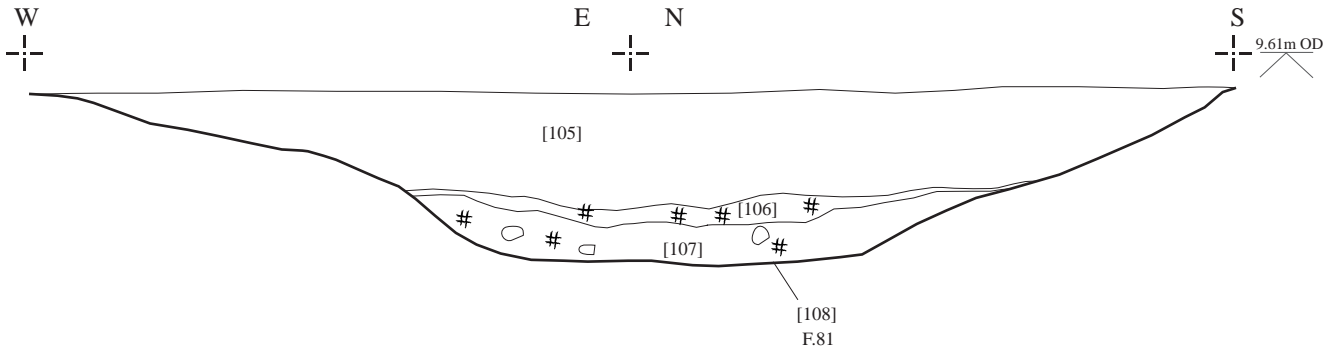


Figure 5. Sections in Trench 7 and 8.

**Trench 9**



**Trench 10**



**Trench 10**

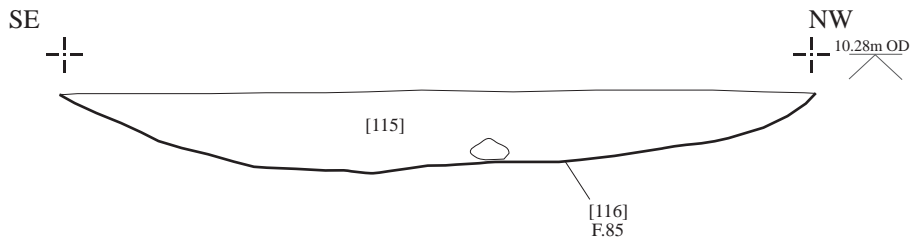
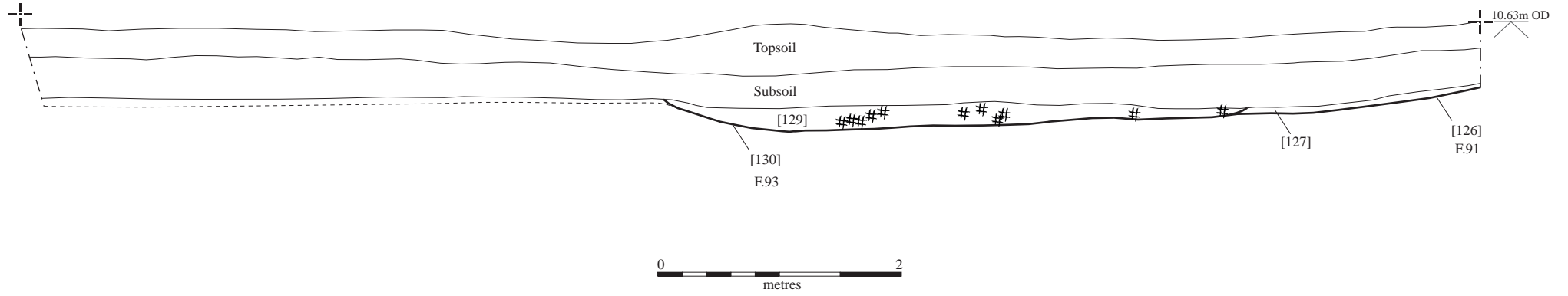


Figure 6. Sections in Trench 9, 10 and 11.

**Trench 11**

SE



**Trench 14**

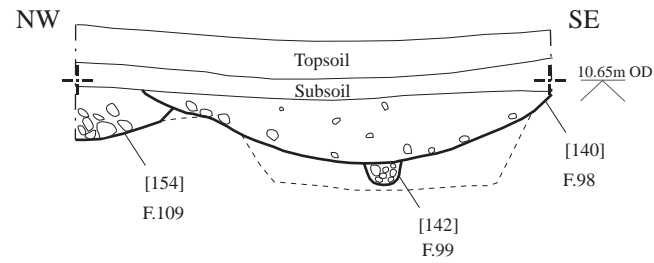


Figure 7. Sections through circular earthwork in Trench 11 (above) and ditched earthwork in Trench 14 (below).



Figure 8. Photograph of Trench 3 looking South.



Figure 9. Photographs of Trench 5, looking South (above) and Trench 5 Extension (below)



Figure 10. Photograph of Trench 8, looking East.





Figure 11. Photograph of Trench 11 looking South East, with F.89 in the foreground.

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OASIS ID: [cambridg3-151115](#)

## Project details

Project name	Chapel End, Sawtry: An Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Chapel End, Sawtry. The Proposed Development Area (PDA) centred on TL 1737 8373 is located immediately west of the A1 (M) which occupies the route of Roman Ermine Street, and south of the scheduled remains of a shrunken medieval village (SAM 172). A total of 15 trenches (449m) were machine excavated across the PDA. The trenches revealed evidence of Early Iron Age activity and early medieval features as well as later 19th-20th century refuse pits and a series of undated agricultural/drainage features. Archaeology was present in all but one trench. A single Early Iron Age pit containing pottery and large deposits of burnt clay was excavated at the southern area of the site. Similar fills associated with a NE-SW aligned ditch and several probable pit features exposed at the northwest corner of the site suggest this prehistoric activity may continue across the area, albeit sporadically. The early medieval features appear to represent the remains of peripheral settlement activity; i.e. ditched enclosures, pits and probable well features, with some later agricultural activity indicated by furrow remnants. Much of this activity was located on the higher clay ground and had subsequently been heavily truncated, however a number of features on the sloping ground were found to be relatively well-preserved. The circular earthworks in the north-westernmost field were found to be modern, superficial features, likely associated with equestrian training whilst the large ditch visible in the northeast field proved to be series of re-cutting drainage features dating to the post-medieval period (c.17th-18th century).
Project dates	Start: 22-04-2013 End: 30-04-2013
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	ECB3971 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None

Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	DITCHES Medieval
Monument type	WELL Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Methods & techniques	""Targeted Trenches""
Development type	Not recorded
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE HUNTINGDONSHIRE SAWTRY Chapel End, Sawtry
Postcode	PE28 5TJ
Study area	2.20 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 1727 8373 52 0 52 26 18 N 000 16 28 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Position derived from charts
Height OD / Depth	Min: 10.00m Max: 12.00m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	David Gibson
Project director/ manager	Emma Beadsmoore
Project supervisor	Shannon Hogan
Type of sponsor/ funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/ funding body	Unknown

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Physical Archive ID	CES 13
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental", "Worked stone/lithics", "other"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Digital Archive ID	CES 13

Digital Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental", "Survey", "Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Media available	"Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Store
Paper Archive ID	CES 13
Paper Media available	"Report"
Paper Archive notes	Report 1171

## Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Chapel End, Sawtry: An Archaeological Evaluation Assessment
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hogan, S.
Other bibliographic details	Report no. 1171
Date	2013
Issuer or publisher	CAU
Place of issue or publication	Cambridge
Description	A4 report, bound. 11 pages of graphics/illustrations.
URL	<a href="http://ads.ahds.ac.uk">http://ads.ahds.ac.uk</a>

Entered by	Shannon Hogan (sh568@cam.ac.uk)
Entered on	24 May 2013

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